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25 Israelis Indicted for Terror

Twenty-five members of the 'Terror Against Terror' (TNT) underground in the occupied territories were charged in a Jerusalem district court May 23. Six are accused of murder and 19 of attempted murder. The charges relate to six specific incidents: plotting to blow up the Dome of the Rock; assassination attempts against West Bank leaders in June 1980; the Hebron University attack in July last year; bombing mosques and a school in Hebron; planting bombs in East Jerusalem buses last month; stealing army property and damaging army property. Eleven defendants are accused of activity in a terrorist underground movement and the rest with membership in it.

An Israeli army major and a second unidentified individual were charged with "murder and terrorism" May 24 in the same court, according to foreign news sources. No further details were available in the second case.

During the first hearing of the trial new information on the TNT cell's activities came to light. It was revealed that there were seven potential victims in the June 1980 assassination attempt in which two mayors were crippled and a third narrowly escaped injury.

The police charge that Mohammed Milhelm, mayor of Halhoul, and Fahd Qawasmeh, mayor of Hebron, would have been hit if they had not been expelled by the occupation authorities some weeks before.

Ibrahim Dakkak, head of the West Bank Engineers Association, and Dr Hamze Natshe from Hebron, both members of the National Guidance Committee (NGC) were also slated as targets. The squad sent to kill Dakkak were scared off by barking dogs, according to one Israeli newspaper report. Passers-by frightened off the squad attempting to hit Natshe.

Karim Khalaf, mayor of Ramallah and Bassam Shaka'a, mayor of Nablus, were both maimed when bombs planted in their cars exploded. Ibrahim Tawil, mayor of al-Bireh, escaped injury only because his car was locked in his garage. "We warned security officials about the booby-trap at Ibrahim Tawil's garage but there was an accident and the (Arab) police sapper lost his eyes," one of the defendants told a *Ma'ariv* correspondent who interviewed him in jail along with six other detainees.

According to the *Ma'ariv* interviews TNT's aim in attacking the mayors was to "warn the NGC, not to kill them; killed they would have become martyrs, while wounded they would serve as a living, on-going deterrent."

The six defendants accused of premeditated murder for plotting and executing the massacre at the Hebron University intended to kill "as many students at the college as possible," the paper revealed.

The 25 men were charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, under Israeli civil law. Sentences range between five and 20 years. Legal experts point out that it is usual for Israelis to be tried in civil courts and under civil law for offences committed in the occupied territories. Palestinians are almost invariably accused under military law where offences carry much stiffer penalties.

The prosecution also submitted a list of 70 witnesses they wish to call and a list of dozens of weapons and explosives caches all over the country.

According to information from the court the underground was trained especially for each operation, had access to intelligence from the armed forces and developed their own weapons. Special bombs, made from explosives stolen from the army, were constructed in secret workshops.

Details were also given of the planning, attack and get-away

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EXHIBIT REBUILT AFTER FIRE

Arson Suspected in Campus Fire of BZU Folklore Festival

A priceless exhibit of Palestinian cultural items and a JD20,000 display of locally manufactured goods — all part of the Palestinian Heritage Week festival at Bir Zeit University — were destroyed by a fire of unknown origin May 18. A pre-fabricated office module was also razed and another damaged. More than 20 students were hospitalised with minor injuries sustained as they fought the blaze. University students said the fire was set by Israeli collaborators.

The exhibit was completely rebuilt by students and the Palestinian Heritage Week reopened within 24 hours.

The fire broke out around 10:45 am in different parts of the main exhibit tent which had been erected on the volleyball court well inside the old campus. The fire spread quickly in all directions according to eyewitnesses. Nizar Salman, a member of the student council who was inside the tent when the blaze started, said he saw the first flames rising in one corner, but did not know how it started.

Marwan Barghouthi, the student closest to the fire, tried to extinguish it but more fires started almost simultaneously in other parts of the tent. Barghouthi was later quoted by other students as saying that he noticed a yellow powder on the sacking which first caught fire.

Students and employees in the vicinity of the exhibit, said they were astonished at the speed with which the fire spread. Abu Asa'ad, a university guard posted at a nearby entrance, said "in a flash the entire tent was blazing."

Students tried to salvage valuables while other fetched water to fight the fire. Several students sustained facial and arm burns as they rushed in and out of the tent.

One student suffered moderate wounds when he smashed the glass of the nearby physical education department offices to rescue files. The fire spread to the office building, a pre-fabricated module, which quickly burned to the ground. Another pre-fabricated building was slightly damaged.

Some students became hysterical as the fire spread.

It took more than one-and-a-half-hours to put out the fire. At first students and employees fought the blaze carrying small buckets of water from a nearby bathroom. Later workers and employees from the new campus, three kilometres away, brought more than 50 small fire-extinguishers.

The Ramallah-al-Bireh fire-brigade, which was contacted immediately after the fire started, arrived one hour later, after the fire was contained and was dying out.

Meanwhile, injured students were taken to Ramallah Hospital in private cars. Many students later spoke bitterly about the hospital's failure to send a medical team and an ambulance to the university.

Israeli troops arrived at Bir Zeit before the fire brigade and while students and staff were busy with the fire. The soldiers with riot gears drove repeatedly around the campus.

Even though the arsonists were not identified students suggested they had treated the canvas exhibition tent with flamable material the previous night. Students said electricity was cut for

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ISRAELI DEPUTY KNESSET SPEAKER

'We Have to Tear Out the Eyes and Guts of the Arabs'

Supporters of settler-Rabbi Moshe Levinger in detention for questioning about his involvement in the last 'Terror Against Terror' cell to be apprehended, held a demonstration in memory of six Israelis killed in an attack in Hebron in 1980.

"Incendiary speeches by several prominent residents of Jewish settlements in the [occupied territories] and right-wing politicians set the tone of rally, which was held in the parking lot of the [Moscobiyya].

"We have to tear out the eyes and the guts of the Arabs," deputy Knesset speaker Meir Cohen-Avidov told the rally, basking in the attention of the local and foreign press.

Placards called for revenge, "Blood for blood," and declared to the suspects inside the compound's holding cells, "The people are with you, the politicians against you."

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Continuous Raids on Ain al-Hilweh Camp

Less than one week after the Israeli army raided Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp, near Sidon, the south Lebanon Israeli-backed militia, raided the camp for the second time, May 19, and erected checkposts inside.

Director Olof Rydbeck, of UNRWA which administers the camp, expressed "alarm" at the raid and said he was informing the New York UN offices about the violent incidents. Discussions in the UN Security Council were begun and postponed in view of the Gulf War crisis.

During the week, one Israeli soldier was killed and 10 others wounded in six military attacks against Israeli occupation troops in south Lebanon. One nationalist commando was killed, and two Lebanese civilians were wounded by Israeli occupation soldiers.

According to Israel Radio, one soldier from the Israeli-backed south Lebanon army (SLA) was seriously wounded when an SLA band raided the camp. Camp residents told reporters May 19, that the militia created panic when they fired shots overhead as they entered the camp and then erected checkposts and searched residents when they moved from one place to another.

Israel Radio charged May 18, that most military attacks against Israeli targets in south Lebanon originate from Ain al-Hilweh. The radio also claimed that the Israeli army discovered weapon caches in the camp.

The costliest attack, according to *Al Fajr* daily which quoted Lebanese sources occurred May 20, when one soldier was killed and two others wounded by a grenade thrown at an Israeli patrol in Sidon. An Israeli military spokesman acknowledged the attack, but claimed that only one soldier was wounded in the incident.

Israeli troops later arrested 20 people from the city on suspicion of involvement in the attack. The detainees were taken to Ansar camp, near Nabatiyeh. Meanwhile, Israeli newspapers disclosed recently that the Ansar camp, which was reportedly emptied after the release of 4500 prisoners in an exchange between Israel and the PLO six months ago, now holds more than 600 prisoners.

Sometime last week, Israeli troops shot and killed a prisoner, a member of the Lebanese Communist Party, and captured four others as they attempted to escape from the camp. *Al Nida'*, the Lebanese Communist Party official newsorgan reported that 10 prisoners successfully escaped. Israeli troops searched the hills by helicopter but were unable to locate the escapees.

In another attack on the same day, a soldier was wounded when small arms fire was directed at an Israeli patrol south of Sidon.

Four other soldiers were hospitalised, May 23, after they were wounded in an explosion near the village of Ansariyeh. An Israeli military spokesman announced that an explosive charge was planted by a road south of the village. The soldiers were treated on the spot before they were flown by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

The previous day, two soldiers were wounded in an ambush near Sidon by nationalist resistance commandoes. The operation was not mentioned by Israeli spokespersons.

Earlier in the week, another soldier was wounded, May 17, six kilometres east of the village of Joa'iya, in the centre of south Lebanon. Among other attacks during the past week, Israeli positions near Lake Karoun in the eastern sector came under rocket attack, May 21. Israeli military sources said that two katyusha rockets were fired in the direction of Israeli positions, but missed their targets.

Dialogue to Resume

After six days of closed-door meetings, representatives of the main PLO factions agreed May 20 to continue discussions in early June in Democratic Yemen.

The communique of the top-level Palestinian meeting, which included Khalil Wazir (representing Fatah), Yasir Abed Rabbo (DFLP), Abu Ali Mustafa (PFLP) and Suleiman Najjab (Palestine Communist Party), as well as Algerian and Yemeni observers, said that it accomplished a considerable step towards an overall unified stand.

A *United Press International* correspondent in Algiers said, "Representatives of the PFLP, DFLP and the Communist Party succeeded in stopping the call for the Palestine National Council which PLO Chairman [Yasir] Arafat needs to strengthen his position in the political arena."

According to UPI, the PNC will be delayed until a comprehensive political programme is agreed upon by all factions.

According to international wire service reports, the call for the removal of Arafat as PLO Executive Committee chairman, made after his visit to a state boycotted by the PLO — Egypt — was withdrawn. The opposition is, however, demanding that his power be controlled by employing collective decision-making methods.

The Fatah central committee met in Tunis May 21 to discuss the results of the Algiers conference. A statement issued after the meeting praised the results. PLO Chairman Arafat arrived in Jedda May 22 for talks with Saudi officials while his deputy, Khalil Wazir, left Algiers for Amman, where the Palestinian National Fund is expected to hold a long-awaited session May 26. The Fund, headed by PLO executive member Hanna Nasser, the deported president of Bir Zeit University, may also be visited by Arafat himself, some reports speculated.

Settlers' Magazine for Export

The information department of the Israeli Foreign Office in Jerusalem recently started the dispatching *Nekuda*, the West Bank settlers' organ, to Israeli offices abroad recommending they "bring it to the attention of Israelis who live and visit their areas.

The organ was sent with a letter from the information department, which said that many Israelis are interested in the paper and therefore it is recommended to distribute it.

Offices were asked to inform the information department how many copies they want to receive regularly. (Translation: HaAretz, May 20, 1984)

Toubi Explains DFPE Programme

MK Tawfiq Toubi, the deputy secretary-general of the Israeli Communist Party, said the establishment of an independent Palestinian state is one basic point in the political programme of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality. The list of the DFPE for the coming Knesset elections was also announced. MK Meir Wilner, the secretary-general of the Israeli Communist Party, will head the list followed by: MK Tawfiq Toubi; MK Charlie Biton, the secretary-general of the Israeli Black Panthers; Tawfiq Zayyad, the mayor of Nazareth; Hashem Mohammed, the head of the Um al-Fahm council; and Palestinian poet Samih al-Qassem, a Communist Party Central Committee member.

Tawfiq Toubi, the second candidate in the DFPE bloc, outlined the front's political programme to Palestinian journalists at a May 22 press conference: the bloc demands the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories and the establishment of the Palestinian state and supports the idea of mutual negotiations with the PLO, the convening of an international conference to solve the Palestinian cause, reciprocal recognition and co-existence between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. Toubi, who held the press conference at the offices of *Al Fajr* daily newspaper May 22, said that the dissolving of the Knesset before the termination of its sessions proves that a political crisis exists in Israeli society. "The Israeli policy of oppression has failed," Toubi said.

Toubi talked about the decisive role the DFPE has in the elections in causing the collapse of the Likud coalition and creating a counter-balance to the Alignment. "We are against the Alignment programme and we hope to mobilise efforts with Israeli democratic forces to make political changes in Israeli society." Toubi criticised the newly-formed Arab-Jewish bloc, which considers itself alternatively as rival and as alternative for the DFPE. Toubi stated that the formation of this bloc is against the national interest and would dissipate Arab votes. Asked about the refusal of the DFPE to ally with the Arab-Jewish bloc, Toubi said that the political programme between the allied groups within the Arab-Jewish bloc is not homogeneous. "The experienced leadership of the DFPE has led the Palestinian masses and has fought harassments since the 1950s," he said.

In reply to a question about the balance of forces in Israeli politics, Toubi said: "If the Democratic Front got six seats in the Knesset, the Alignment would not be able to form a government without our participation." Toubi added, "Our participation in the government is conditional on receiving a positive response for our political programme." Talking about other political topics, Toubi stated his support to the PLO's legitimate leadership and the maintenance of unity among the PLO factions based on the Fez accords and the resolutions of the sixteenth session of the PNC. He was full of praise for the meetings between the PLO factions in Algiers. He said that the PLO's political role is very important in the world and that Israeli objectives in Lebanon have failed. Toubi stressed the importance of strengthening the alliance between Syria, the Lebanese National Movement and the PLO.

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Arson

an hour-and-a-half that night during which the perpetrators could have entered into the exhibit undetected.

Acting president, Dr. Gabi Baramki, said the university plans to conduct a private investigation into the incident.

The university later issued a statement May 19 saying that students worked through the night to reopen the Heritage week and replace destroyed exhibits, with contributions from local merchants, factories and artists. The university announced its intention to compensate the companies and owners for materials lost in the fire.

The statement also criticised the nearby Ramallah-al-Bireh fire-brigade for arriving so late.

Israel Radio and TV reports accusing student groups of responsibility for the fire. Both falsely reported that 50 people were wounded as a result of clashes between left and right wing students.

The Student Council, however, said there had been a small scuffle after the fire between two students which was quickly stopped. They warned that the Israeli media were trying to stir up problems on campus.

Meanwhile, the national student movement (a coalition of all national student blocs on campus) issued a statement expressing solidarity with the Student Council, and denouncing the arson.

BZU Board of Trustees praised students May 20 for maintaining their unity despite the clear attempt of the perpetrators to provoke problems among the students. There were several notices in local papers denouncing the arson and expressing solidarity with the student movement.

The Palestine Heritage Week Festival is an annual event held by the student movement. This year the exhibit contained priceless pieces of embroidery, pottery, and other handicrafts. A national products section included industrial products, prisoners works, a national press exhibit and a book fair.

Israeli Air Raids on Beqa'a

Israeli war planes returned to Lebanon and attacked Iranian Revolutionary Guard bases in the Beqa'a Valley May 20 in what an Israeli military spokesperson called a "preventive measure."

The air raid occurred Sunday afternoon when three war planes bombed a number of buildings at the village of Janata in the Beqa'a Valley. An Israeli military spokesperson said five buildings were destroyed in the attack.

The Phalangist-run *Voice of Lebanon* radio station reported that three fighter planes provided cover as three other planes carried out the bombing. The radio station said that there were a number of civilian casualties in the attack.

The last Israeli air raid against militia groups in Lebanon occurred on April 7 when Israeli war planes bombed positions held by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The raiding jets were prevented, then, from direct hits because of heavy anti-aircraft fire.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guards came to Lebanon in 1982 in order to participate in the on-going war of attrition against the Israeli occupation army.

THIS WEEK'S CENSORSHIP

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issue 212, May 25, 1984:

Number of original articles submitted to censors	20
Number of articles totally censored out	4
Number of articles mutilated beyond use	2
Number of articles partially censored but used	3
Number of articles passed	11

Palestine's Heritage Honoured at Bir Zeit's Culture Week

Palestinian wedding sdene at BZU Palestine Week

Several thousands people attented Palestinian Heritage Week, held on the old campus at Bir Zeit University under the sponsorship of the Student Council from all over the West Bank and Gaza, and inside the green line. The event was successful despite a day-long interruption from fire that gutted most of the original display of cultural artifacts and national products, May 18 (see story p. 1).

The exhibits of local industrial products, books, cultural material, works of prisoners and Palestinian press, opened May 16.

According to organisers of the Palestine Week, this is the first time in four years that the Week gathered all displays into one exhibit. In the past, the different exhibits were held at intervals during the semester to diffuse Israeli measures against student organisers. Two of the six exhibits were innovations this year the works of Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails, and of Palestinian press. The exhibit of prisoners' works included a hand-crafted model of the Dome of the Rock, and paintings reflecting the sufferings of prisoners and their dreams of freedom and liberation.

The press exhibit had on display different Palestinian publications issued inside the occupied lands and in the diaspora. Among them were local Arabic dailies like *Al Fajr*, *Al Sha'ab*, and *Al Quds* and weekly and bi-weekly newspapers and magazines like *Al Mithaq*, *Al Talia*, *Al Bayader*, *Al Fajr* English, and *Al Awdeh*. On display were also old issues of *Filastin* newspaper dated March 21, 1952, which was published in Jerusalem, and *Filastinuna* dated 1962. Some of the diaspora Palestinian publications were displayed too.

Khalid Abu Sa'adeh, secretary of the information committee of the Student Council, and organiser of the press exhibit, said the purpose of the exhibit was to inform people of all current Palestinian press publications and to emphasise some of the more important news that appeared in the local press.

The book exhibit included publications from several local publishing houses. Arafeh Publishing House, Ibn Rushd House, *Al Bayyader* Publishing House, *Ina'ash al-Usra*, and others. On display were political, social, academic, children and religious books, as well as a large variety of posters and tape cassettes. Political books that related directly to the Palestinian issue were the most in demand, according to an attendant at the Abu Arafeh booth. The books were all in Arabic and sold 25 percent below the market price to encourage sales, according to Mahmoud Noufal, organiser of the book exhibit.

The cultural exhibit which was burned to the ground in the fire along with the national industries exhibition, and completely replaced by the next day, included displays of Palestinian antiquities from the villages and national dresses from various regions in Palestine. Some of the antiquities were tools used in the villages many years ago. According to 'Abir Abd al-Hamid, one of the exhibit's organisers, most of the displays were personal contributions from villagers and Palestinian organisations. Most of them, she said, were very cooperative and more than eager to supply the exhibit with all the material, particularly after the fire destroyed what was in the old exhibit.

The exhibit of national industries was the biggest with the participation of 30 local industries showing off plastic products, glassware, soft drinks, pottery, leather and rubber products, and woodwork. A Beduin tent was set up and students dressed in Beduin garb made a symbolic portrayal of their life style.

The week ended May 22 with a festival of a traditional Palestinian wedding.

Golanis Demonstrat

Nearly 10,000 people participated last Friday at a gathering on the 40th day after the death of the Druze General Nur al-Din Kanj, a native of Majd al-Shams who served for many years in the Syrian army. At the border near Majd al-Shams, 4000 Druze from the Carmel and the Galilee on the Israeli (occupied) side of the border. On the Syrian side more than 5000 Druzes and Syrian official representatives, PLO representatives in Syria and the Ba'ath party representatives came.

A Syrian flag was raised in the assembly and hundreds of Majd al-Shams residents marched from the town-centre to the assembly site, carrying a large Syrian flag in front of them. Banners against Israel were raised by participants on the Israeli occupied side of the border condemning the Israeli army and calling on Syria to liberate the Golan. Many groups that arrived to the site sang the Syrian national anthem.

During the memorial Suleiman Kanj and Saqr Abu Salah called on Syria to liberate the Golan because it bears the duty to unite Syria again on both sides of the border.

The speakers on the Israeli side claimed that they sent a cable to Syrian President Hafez al-Assad in which they called on him to liberate the Golan and the Druze people.

Only small forces of army, police and border police were at the border. A police officer who came close to the demonstrators in his car was forced to retreat when demonstrators threatened to break the vehicle's windows. This is the first time there has been an assembly in Druze villages of the Golan Heights, in which Syrian flags were raised overtly and the Syrian anthem was heard along with public calls for the Golan's liberation by Syrian conquest. (Translation: Al Hamishmar, May 20, 1984)

Baransi Released After 7 Days

Saleh Baransi, 55, head of a Palestinian research institute in Taibeh and a veteran nationalist, was released May 24 after a seven-day detention. Baransi was arrested upon arrival in Lydda airport coming from London where he was treated for spinal injuries.

Baransi was released from detention after a Tel Aviv district court session and another in the Jerusalem High Court. The Israeli judge was forced to release Baransi after the prosecutor could not give sufficient reason for holding him.

The Israeli authorities claimed Baransi met with an aide of Issam Sartawi, Arafat's political affairs advisor who was killed in Portugal over a year ago.

Saleh Baransi lives in the Triangle village of Taibeh. He was one of the founders of the *al-Ard* movement in the 1950's. He was jailed for 10 years in 1969 and upon release was given consecutive town arrest orders.

Order Nisi Stays Abu Ali Deportation

The Israeli High Court extended an order *nisi* preventing the deportation of Abd al-Aziz Shahin (Abu Ali) May 21 and gave the state 10 days to bring evidence to support their suit. The defence asked for more time to prepare a response to the state's case.

Abu Ali, 41, who served 15 years in jail on political charges, is presently under a South African-style banning and banishment order in the village of Dhahnieh on the southern border of the Gaza Strip. In March this year the military governor of the Gaza Strip ordered him expelled for "security reasons."

In a brief hearing the High Court ordered the state to bring affidavits and evidence to support claims they made against Abu Ali.

Defence Attorney Lea Tsemel claimed the state were attempting to avoid political issues by clouding the issue of Abu Ali's expulsion with the question of whether he had been registered legally in the 1967 census. She said the state in its response to Abu Ali's suit, should decide whether the case was a legal one regarding census registration or security. She also asked for time to prepare answers to the state's case which had been given to her the same morning.

Both defence and prosecution lawyers said they dispute "facts" cited in the other affidavits and the bench adjourned the case so that further evidence could be brought. The judges will rule within 10 days on whether to give Tsemel further time to prepare her case.

Before the hearing there were confrontations between troops escorting Shahin and his friends and supporters. Abu Ali was hustled into the high court building by four helmeted military policemen toting submachine guns. The squad was completed by two senior officers and a woman soldier who appeared to be the girlfriend of one of the soldiers.

The squad brushed aside a police officer who attempted to stop them from entering the court with loaded guns.

Outside the courtroom the armed soldiers formed a cordon around Abu Ali, a short, stout, bespectacled man who walks with a cane because of spinal problems which developed while he was in jail. The officers attempted to prevent relatives and friends from communicating with Abu Ali.

A shouting match developed between the troops, police and a cafeteria worker over whether Abu Ali would be allowed to drink something.

In the courtroom, the smallest in the building, Abu Ali sat among four soldiers. The public benches were packed, many visitors having to sit on each others' laps. The representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross attended the session along with prominent foreign jurists. Henry Schwartzchild of the American Civil Liberties Union, Geraud dela Pradelle, Professor of International Law in Nanterre Paris X University and Helga Lochman, a Norwegian advocate specialising in refugee problems were also in court.

The state's case against Abu Ali marks new departures from their allegations against him so far. They have withdrawn the claim made in 1982 that he was not included in the September 1967 Gaza Strip census. They now say he was in the Strip 'illegally' and recorded in the census and given an ID number because of a 'bureaucratic error."

The state catelogues a long list of allegations against Abu Ali as a political activist in prison and a prominent local figure in the nationalist camp after his release.

The state lists the increasingly repressive administrative measures taken against Abu Ali, which culminated in his 'banishment' to Dhahnieh in August 1983. Under that order, he was restricted to the fortified village, forbidden to leave without written permission, ordered to remain in his quarters there from 7:00 pm to 8:00 am, forbidden contact with anyone and forbidden to express 'views or ideas.'

The state claimed that even with this order, the Gaza Strip military governorate has 'insufficient means' to 'prevent' Abu Ali's 'activities.'

Appended to the state's suit was a list of 58 allegations against Abu Ali which said, *inter alia*, that he was visited at home by hundreds of people since his release from jail, spoke with students in Nablus and Gaza and spoke about Palestinian rights. A legal source at the court described many of the 58 'charges' as "baseless in law."

Abu Ali claims he was legally in Gaza in 1967 at the time of the census and should be given an ID card. He notes that the military and the Shin Bet have frequently offered to drop the expulsion in return for political concessions from him.

BU Students Suspend Strike

Bethlehem University Student Council suspended a strike at Bethlehem University May 24.

It began May 21 after students felt that the university administration ignored their suggested academic and organisational improvements for the Bethlehem campus. The students were protesting the administration's regulations of not allowing a dismissed student to return after a period of probation and a number of academic regulations in the Hotel Management faculty, which students say "differ from the rest of the faculties."

A Bethlehem University student source said that the decision to end the strike was "temporary," but Bethlehem's public relations head Mousa Darwish said the "problem is over." Darwish welcomed the Student Council decision and said that the four days of strike were difficult because they came at the end of the semester. Studies were set to resume May 25.

Gaza Fish Left on Beaches By Merchants' VAT Protest

What remains of the Gaza fishing industry suffered a sévere blow this week when Israeli customs officials in the Gaza Strip tried to collect 15 percent Value Added Tax from fish merchants by force. Customs officials broke into the Gaza port May 18 and ordered merchants to pay the VAT on fish just bought from small-boat fishermen.

In response, merchants refused to make the sale and left 50 tons of local catch to rot. Rajab Hesi, the head of the Gaza Fishermen's Society, told *Al Fajr* the fishermen did not go out to sea the next day in protest.

On May 20, the fishermen caught 60 tons. But Gaza merchants again refused to buy, therefore forcing fishermen onto the market themselves. The price dropped to IS10-15 per kilo. Last week, a kilo of fish sold for between IS130-150. No Gaza fish was sold in the West Bank or Israel, Hesi said. The people of the Gaza Strip consume only one-quarter of the local catch. The rest is sold to area merchants and the excess sold cheaply to Israeli industry.

Fewer than 2000 small fishermen in Gaza today fish an area restricted to 24 kilometres, 18 kilometres wide.

Three years ago Gaza fishermen were allowed 180 kilometres of fishing but in 1982 Israel introduced new restrictions. Israeli soldiers stop Gaza fishermen and impound their boats if they go beyond these new boundaries. Fifteen Gaza boats were confiscated last month alone. Port areas and proper docks have been denied the fishermen, who are forced to use tractors to launch their boats or else keep them at sea.

Gaza fishermen described the latest Israeli restrictions as "a major blow" against them and their livelihood.

The Gaza Fishermen's Society received a US$100,000 grant from the US Community Development Foundation in order to buy technical tools for fishing and a cold storage truck for fish marketing.

Four Get Life Sentences For Killing Hebron Settler

Four Palestinians were sentenced to life imprisonment and four others received sentences of 10-25 years in the Nablus military court May 21 in connection with the killing of a Hebron settler last July. The youths, all in their early twenties, are from Hebron and Thowri, a Jerusalem suburb.

Ibrahim Abd al-Rahman, Ziad Omar, Hani Mohammed and Adnan Abu Sneineh received life terms for stabbing a Kiryat Arba settler, Aharon Gross. Taisir Shulan and Kayed Sarsour received 25 years and Nuh Ashour 20 years for driving away from the scene with the suspects. The eighth youth, Izzat Rajjabi, was found innocent of involvement in the killing but was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for membership in an illegal organisation, *al-Jihad al-Islami* (Islamic Holy War) organisation.

In addition to the murder and accessory charges, all suspects were accused of membership in the group. Convictions were based on their own statements and admissions of guilt. The defendants pleaded guilty when it was apparent that settlers were pressing the state prosecutor to demand the death penalty.

The Israeli prosecutor, who said the defendants "don't deserve to be human," told the military court that *al-Jihad al-Islami* calls for the spread of Islam by force, not only in Palestine but throughout the world.

The defendants told the court, which was packed with settlers and journalists, that they want peace not war. "But when all the peaceful means failed, we had to defend ourselves," one said. Defendants said that after seeing "our land and holy sites taken from us by force at the hands of the occupation and settlers, we had to act." One defendant told the court, "Just like you said you wanted to gain peace by going into Lebanon by force we felt that we had a right to defend ourselves." All defendants told the court that they would never "attack a woman, a child or an unarmed person."

Defence lawyers Jawad Boulos, Jonathan Kuttab and Ali Ghuzlan told the court that the occupation, coupled with the intensive settlement in the heart of Hebron, were the reasons for the killing. Jonathan Kuttab said that until the time of the incident, "no Jew had been apprehended or sentenced for anti-Arab terror activities although it is clear that many [such incidents] took place."

Defence advocate Jawad Boulos told the court that *al-Jihad al-Islami* organisation is a purely religious organisation and it does not on principle fight occupation. He said that its members do not train in weapons and that at times the authorities have supported them.

Jerusalem barrister Ali Ghuzlan accused the court of "lack of impartiality," saying it was "influenced by settlers." He explained the hypocrisy of the courts in the way they deal with Arab and Jewish killers — that the homes of the accused were destroyed, for example, while the homes of those accused of anti-Arab terror are not.

Ghuzlan's client, Izzat Rajjabi, received a harsh 10-year sentence for membership. Legal observers were astonished at the severity of the penalty, saying that usually the sentence for membership is less than one year. Ghuzlan said later that the court accepted the fact that his client knew nothing of the murder yet it treated him as if he had actually committed the stabbing.

The stabbing of Jewish settler Aharon Gross in July 1983 produced immediate retaliation by Hebron settlers. They set fire to the vegetable market and seized the Hebron bus station. Some three weeks later, settlers killed three Palestinian students and injured 38 in an ambush attack on Hebron University. A number of Kiryat Arba residents have been recently apprehended and have confessed to committing the attack at the university.

Court Order Slows Beit Ijza Confiscation

The Israeli High Court issued an order *nisi* May 17 to stop the confiscation of a 77-dunum plot and the destruction of an eight-room house belonging to the family of Sabri Gharib in the village of Beit Ijza, 18 kilometres north west of Jerusalem, until the court reviews the case. A decision against the Israeli government would jeopardise the legal basis used by the military government for current land confiscations in the occupied territories.

The High court decision was issued after an appeal by Gharib's lawyers who were challenging an April 8 confiscation order by the Israeli military objections committee. The objections committee had endorsed the confiscation, house destruction and the annexation of the land to the nearby Israeli settlement of Hadash.The Jerusalem district court is also expected to hear the complaint of Sabri Gharib and his son Mahmoud May 22 regarding harassment by settlers of Hadash. The Gharib family have given affidavits to lawyers citing a three-year history of harassment from settlers including forced entry and armed assault. In 1981 Sabri's arm was broken by settlers and his son Mahmoud suffered back injuries.

Gharib's lawyers, Avigador Feldman and Jonathan Kuttab, say that the High Court case challenges the confiscation of *miri* lands. Kuttab explained that they will use Jordanian and British laws to challenge the Israeli authorities assumption that land designated by the Ottoman Turks as *miri* reverts to the 'state' or military occupiers. The legal team will also argue, based on international law, against the Israeli government turning over such land for the exclusive use of a Jewish settlement.

Sabri Gharib and his 13-member family have official papers documenting their ownership of the disputed land since 1913. Gharib told *Al Fajr* "As long as I live I will not give up my land which I inherited from my father and my grandfather.

Kufr Kanna Singer Needs Military Permit to Sing

Palestinian singer Jamil Asa'ad, 31, from Kufr Kanna, was ordered May 18 not to sing in private or public festivals without prior permission from the Israeli authorities. Asa'ad, who was placed under town arrest order eight months ago, was summoned to police headquarters in Nazareth where he was told that the latest six-month town arrest had been cancelled. The police then handed him an order signed by Uri Orr, commander of the northern district, that he must notify the police about any festival he plans to attend 48 hours beforehand.

Asa'ad and Omar Said, 24, also from Kufr Kanna, who has been put under town restriction for two years, are both planning to appear before the Israeli High Court May 29 to appeal the town arrest order.

Advocate Mohammed Na'amneh said the cancellation of the restriction order against Asa'ad before its termination is an unprecedented compromise by the police. Omar Said, a biochemistry graduate student from Beer Sheba, expects that authorities will cancel the town arrest order imposed on him: "My lawyer Na'amneh is optimistic. There is no concrete accusation against me," he said. Said must appear at the magistrates court in Nazareth May 12 on charges of once not having his ID card when he registered at the Nazareth police station.

The police are also appealing a January sentence against Said of two months suspended imprisonment for violating his town arrest order. Said, who was also fined IS3000, commented, "It seems the police do not like me and want to take political revenge."

Asa'ad's new restriction is almost intolerable according to Israeli daily *Al Hamishmar*.

The southern district police spokesman Moshe Alexandroni, said the terrible over crowdedness causes fights and damage among other problems.

There is space for only 58 detainees in all the police stations in the Gaza Strip. Last weekend 123 people were being held, about 250 percent above capacity. (Translation: Al Hamishmar, May 20, 1984)

barred him from the National Song Concert at Kufr Kanna May 18. Despite his absence, an estimated 1000 people attended the festival organised by the local branch of *Abna' al-Balad*.

An enthusiastic audience heard songs from Ramallah singer Walid Abd al-Salam, the poetry of Ibrahim Nasrallah, resident of Wahdat camp, Jordan, the *dabkeh* and traditional songs of the al-Bireh Popular Arts Group and national anthems by a small group of youngsters from *Ashbal Abna' al-Balad*, Kufr Kanna.

A concert organiser told *Al Fajr* the event went ahead despite threats from the police to blockade the village and from other Israeli authorities, including the threat to suspend payment of an IS0.5 million cheque for a local school. "We will make the song festival an annual event," the organiser said.

DETENTION CENTRES OVER–CROWDED

The over crowdedness of detention centres and police stations in the occupied territories

Za'atar 'Illegal'

Over the past several months Israeli authorities have confiscated 10 tons of *za'atar*, wild thyme which has been harvested for centuries in Palestine. Authorities claim that they want to 'protect nature' and safeguard the economic interests of Israeli planters. Palestinian legal sources said that the Israeli authorities want to deprive the Palestinian population of access to the herb, which is a basic food substance and has come to symbolise the attachment of Palestinians to their land. Legal sources added: "One can only speculate and wonder at the motives since the military legislator never offers reasons or justifications for orders."

A local ecologist said the order prohibiting the picking of wild thyme is an attempt by the Israelis to undermine Palestinian culture and economy by illegalising a traditional and widely used foodstuff. "The Israeli authorities attempt to justify this order by declaring their love of nature which, on the other hand, deprives Palestinians of loving nature," he said.

Za'atar is consumed in quantity by virtually every Palestinian family, especially villagers. With oil and sesame seeds it is a popular breakfast dish.

NETUREI KARTA FANS BURN FLAGS

JERUSALEM — Thirty-six Israeli flags, four metres wide each, were burned as thousands of Orthodox Jews cheered during the traditional *Lag Ba'omer* religious festivities in Mea Sharim, May 19, the neighbourhood of the ultra-religious, anti-Zionist Neturei Karta.

The flags, symbolising the 36 years since the creation of Israel, were burned in front of a bevy of local and international press and TV crews. A police patrol was put on alert but stayed on the outskirts of Mea Sharim.

The Dawn

AL FAJR

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Official Racism

Prominently displayed on the front page of *The Jerusalem Post* May 23 were horrifying, anti-Arab racist statements uttered by the leaders of a group of 300 settlers who were demonstrating in the parking lot of the Moscobiyya detention centre in West Jerusalem. The group was supporting Rabbi Levinger and the Jewish terror suspects arrested following the planting of bombs in East Jerusalem buses and a number of other terrorist acts against Arabs.

"We have to tear out the eyes and the guts of the Arabs," deputy Knesset speaker Meir Cohen-Avidov told the rally. Prominent columnist Yisrael Eldad added, "We're seeing something outrageous; Jewish soldiers put on trial for doing what they are supposed to do."

Another speaker, Yossi Dayan, spokesperson for the racist Kach movement, proudly pointed out that the 'only crime' these Jewish terroirsts committed "was that they didn't ask me to join."

**Apologies Apologies Apologies

AL FAJR invites our readers to contribute letters, articles and opinions. Contributions must be signed, but names may be withheld upon request.

What Dialogue Means for Us

At the outset, we have to clarify the difference between 'dialogue' and 'cooperation' — terms which are often blurred. Dialogue is human interchange; even before spoken language, the exchange of views — dialogue — took various non-linguistic forms.

We conduct a dialogue with friends so that each of us may understand and support the other. Through dialogue we learn and teach. We also conduct dialogue to discover ideas unknown to us. We also conduct dialogue with opponents so that we may sort out potential friends from among their ranks; we may also refute their arguments, and thus blunt their impact on our ranks.

There can be cooperative dialogue, conflicting dialogue or categorising dialogue.

Having a dialogue with someone does not necessarily entail cooperation with or even acceptance of this person's existence in their present form or views. Otherwise there would be no dialogue between a monotheist and an atheist, or between employees and employers. On the other hand, a dialogue with some, however warm and truthful that dialogue might be, does not necessarily mean that either party to the dialogue has to concede to the other. Their dialogue could put an end to their conflict. This depends eventually on the nature of the topic under discussion.

Left: Nahum Goldmann. Right: Uri Avneri meets with Yasir Arafat in Beirut. "When we conduct a dialogue with them and tell them explicitly that the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people is the PLO, we force them to recognise the centrality of the PLO regardless of their official recognition."

The Palestinians and Dialogue

Time has demonstrated that our people are aware and able to differentiate between collaborating with the enemy and conducting a dialogue with them. If we consider the experience of the Palestinians living within the 1948 borders, we find that they were able to maintain a Palestinian national identity, despite the military rule that isolated and suppressed them. Our people were able to screen out the collaborators and to identify the true fighters for the cause.

Some traitors and agents tried, during the first few years after the creation of Israel, to sell themselves and to collaborate with the Israeli authorities. Our people, however, refused to acquiesce in their isolation and introversion and have not, over the long years, ceased to attempt moving within their various factions, and within Israeli society itself, despite the restrictions imposed on them. They also have not ceased to seek an outlet through which they can express their identity. They also sought friends, and even half-friends, in Israeli society.

All these attempts gave rise to *al-Ard* movement in the 1950s. The Israeli authorities banned the activities of this movement. So the Palestinian people turned to the Israeli Communist Party.

The 1970s witnessed the emergence of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (DFPE) and *Abna' al-Balad*. The DFPE has always believed in conducting a dialogue with the Israelis and cooperating with those who hold identical views. *Abna' al-Balad* tried to separate itself from progressive Israeli forces. But the nature of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict imposed itself on the debate within their ranks. As a result, the movement was divided and the *Ansar* faction appeared, which realised that dialogue and meeting Israeli progressive forces was inevitable.

As for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, our people there have absorbed the experience of the Palestinian Arabs within the 1948 borders. They did that with astonishing speed and avoided the Israeli trap which induced them to get confused between 'collaboration' and 'dialogue.' Our people refused to collaborate and rejected the phenomenon of the Village Leagues in 1981. They also resisted attempts to impose surrender on them by the occupation forces. However, our people cooperated with the Israeli forces supporting our cause, such at the Committee for Solidarity with Bir Zeit University and the Committee Against the War in Lebanon. The demonstrations in Ramallah in 1981 and at Dheisheh refugee camp in 1984 are the best indicators of this awareness.

At the leadership level, PLO Chairperson Yasir Arafat raised his voice in praise of the statement issued by three Jewish leaders in the US and France, namely (president of the World Jewish Congress Nahum) Goldmann, former French Prime Minister Pierre Mendes-France and Philip Klutznik. He also met with two Israeli journalists, Uri Avneri and Amnon Kapeliuk.

That is the kind of dialogue we have in mind: neither a substitute for fighting nor surrender. It is a complement to the struggle and stems from within it.

Why These?

The question that arises is: why should we conduct a dialogue with Israelis whose stands are volatile and undecided? I mean by this the Labour Party (including Mapam) which has, so far, refrained from recognising the legitimacy of the PLO. It still plays with words to avoid recognising the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

I have no doubt that members of the Labour Party are not supporters of our cause. Similarly, it is difficult to consider them our friends. But we have to take advantage of the stands of some of them and try to open their eyes to the reality of the occupation. We should not allow persons such as Yossi Sarid, Mohammed Watad or Victor Shemtov, who make such liberal statements, slip by without confronting all the facts. We should encourage them to adopt clearer stands.

On the other hand, when we conduct a dialogue with them and tell them explicitly that the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people is the PLO, we force them to recognise the centrality of the PLO regardless of their official recognition.

The Dialogue Strategy

Dialogue should be carried out under the following conditions:

— When there is full confidence in the awareness and capability of our people to recognise what is compatible with our basic interests, without and guardianship by some of those who still look upon our masses as naive and unable to realise their interests;

— When there is full confidence that right and truth are on our side.

Dialogue, in whatever form it takes, does not necessarily mean recognition of or submission to *de facto* situations. On the contrary, it means that we are seeking to change the *status quo*.

Dialogue is no less important than any other weapon. Hence, we should be extremely careful in selecting those whom we entrust with the task of conducting it.

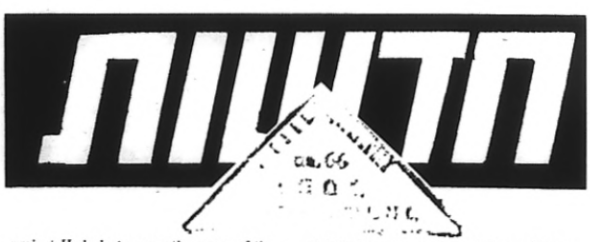
We should encourage open dialogue with all the less militant Israelis. It will also explain our cause to many Israelis who do not know the facts or refuse to face realities.

Freedom of the Press - For Whom?

The name of Moshe Ben Ze'iv, the former Israeli attorney general, comes up every now and then through articles he publishes in *HaAretz* newspaper. A few days ago he wrote about the military censorship imposed on some Israeli papers following the incident with *Hadashot* newspaper. The minister of defence had ordered it closed for four days. He also banned it from the Israeli army camps because it reported on the formation of an inquiry commission to investigate the circumstances surrounding the killing of the Palestinian hijackers of the Israeli bus.

The Israeli papers which enjoy good relations with the Israeli authorities did not take sides with *Hadashot*. Some papers even supported the ban, despite the f[illegible]t the news item, although w[illegible]out censor[illegible] does not constitute [illegible] security [illegible]

Moshe Ben Ze'iv expressed his amazement at and disapproval of the passive at[illegible]de taken b[illegible]ome Israeli papers towards [illegible]iv wonders, why didn't the censo[illegible]



against *Hadashot* arouse the anger of the Israeli press? Why did the press and media in Israel brush aside this act?

Ben Ze'iv seems to have forgotten the fact that *Hadashot* is not the only paper to be closed and banned from distribution by order of the military authorities based on the Emergency Law of 1943. The Arab-owned papers in Jerusalem, especially *Al Fajr*, suffer daily from the strict military censorship. These papers were closed several times for months and not just once, for a few days. The Israeli papers did nothing to defend the right of the Arab papers to be published and to express themselves. The Israeli papers sided with the military authorities.

What is more astonishing is the stand of Ben Ze'iv himself. Why is Ben Ze'iv so enraged while defending *Hadashot* and why is he reprimanding the Israeli papers for [not] supporting it? Yet he kept silent when the Arab papers were subjected to the same arbitrary measures. The laws implemented by the Israeli authorities against the Arab papers are the mandatory laws that were originally intended in 1945 against the Zionist, who were the first to revolt against them. Following the establishment of Israel, these draconian laws were retained and they are forced primarily against the Arabs.

Ben Ze'iv's stand glosses over the facts. It contains only negligible concern for freedom of the press — and none for the Aab press.

Palestinian society has historically compensated for the absence of national direction by building its own institutions, private-based for public use — like the plethora of valuable libraries which once dotted the Old City alleyways of Jerusalem. Here **Awad Abdel Fattah**, *Al Fajr* features editor, tours the remnants of the Khalidi Library and hints at an intellectual wealth, now destroyed.

Private Libraries in Jerusalem: Legacy of a Rich Culture

Private, family-owned libraries were common in Jerusalem before 1948 among wealthy and intellectual Palestinian circles, who opened them to whomever was interested. Most of these libraries — at their peak they numbered 34 — have disappeared; the volumes that once filled their shelves have been lost or transferred to the library of al-Aqsa Mosque. An important part of the contents of these libraries were rare manuscripts which date back seven centuries.

One of the largest of the Old City libraries which survived the wars of 1948 and 1967 is the 100-year-old Khalidi library. Today it is unobtrusive, squeezed among a long line of old shops and identifiable only by a sign hung over the once well-used gate. The building housing the two-room library is very old: in a small square between the rooms are three graves which date back to the Mameluke period. According to the inscriptions on the gravestones, one of the leaders of the Mamelukes and his two sons are buried beneath. Directly above this historic Arab building, Israelis are in the final stages of constructing a religious school for Orthodox Jews. The building marks the latest juncture of the encroachment of the new Jewish Quarter into Arab Jerusalem and nobody knows where the Israeli government plans are going to end.

The building looks deserted; from the outside no one would guess at its significant contents. Inside the library, the musty smell of dampness and lack of air is strong. All around, on the high old wooden shelves and cupboards, thousands of books and manuscripts are stacked. Some books show signs of rot. In the middle of the room stands a large old table with a number of chairs, leaving little space to move from shelf to shelf.

The History of the Al-Khalidi Library

The Khalidi library opened in 1900. According to Haidar al-Khalidi, who is now in charge of the library, the Khalidi family members were book-loving intellectuals. "Every one of them would buy books and manuscripts and store them in boxes." They decided to pool their books in one place so that the community could benefit from them although the library would remain the property of the Khalidi family. A family member was appointed custodian and opened the library to the public from morning til evening free-of-charge, in accordance with the conditions of the library's founders: "It is a public library for whomever wishes to read and learn... and it is open to all intellectuals and students every day from morning to evening."

When the library started there were only 1318 books and manuscripts. The founders continued to collect books from all over the Arab world. By 1936, there were 7000 volumes, a third of which were manuscripts and by 1945, 5000 books had been added. But after the 1948 and 1967 wars and the intensive fighting inside the Old City, the library was depleted until today there are fewer than 6000 books. "It is not clear how the books disappeared," a member of the Khalidi family said. He added that there is no doubt that the main reason behind the disappearance of "so many valuable books and manuscripts is the mess which prevailed during the war of 1948 between the Palestinians and the Zionist organisations and the British."

For fear of losing all the books, a mission of manuscript specialists was dispatched to Jerusalem by the Arab League and microfilmed all the manuscripts in the Khalidi library. Also recently, it was learned, the Jordanian University in Amman has started to microfilm the same manuscripts.

The contents of the library cover various subject and are in many languages — Arabic, Turkish, English, French and Greek. Most of these books and manuscripts deal with the Islamic religion, Arabic grammar astrology, chemistry, biology and others.

Thousands of books and manuscripts in Palestinian libraries like the Khalidis' were once a rich source for the intellectual and cultural movements in Palestine. The establishment and use of these libraries, now almost all destroyed or transferred, were not much different from the Khalidi library. They bore the names of Jerusalem's most well-known families: al-Muket, al-Budeiri, al-Qteeni, Khalil al-Khalidi, Hassan al-Turjeman, Abdullah Mukhless, Hussam Jarallah and the Khalili Library, the oldest family-owned library of 5000 manuscripts and 2000 books. According to the person in charge of al-Aqsa Mosque library, the contents of al-Khalili library were transferred to the *waqf* museum in East Jerusalem before they were finally moved to al-Aqsa library several years ago.

Most of the Palestinians who owned or managed the old libraries have died or left the country. Information about the other libraries, new either closed or destroyed, is not readily available. Some of the Palestinian-owned libraries were located in the western part of the city and were confiscated by the Zionist occupiers of Jerusalem. Dr Ishaq al-Husseini, a writer who was forced to flee Baka'a, in the western part of the city, in 1948, recalls that there were about five private libraries in his neighbourhood alone. He himself had a library there, "but I don't know what happened to it and to the thousands of valuable books we left there after the occupation of Jerusalem," he told *Al Fajr*. Al-Baka'a neighbourhood is settled today by immigrants to Israel. Not one Palestinian has been able to return to his home in Baka'a.

Dr al-Husseini, who now heads Dar al-Tifl college in Jerusalem, told *Al Fajr* that the owners of the libraries were writers and intellectuals. He added that in 1946 they sponsored an Arab cultural society "to popularise cultural activity and thought in Palestine." The society was stopped abruptly two years later by the war which dispersed the Palestinian people. But during those two years, the society was very active. Al-Husseini remembers: "We organised lectures on culture and thought in all parts of Palestine and made book exhibits in a number of Palestinian towns." He explained that the founders of the society met regularly to discuss research topics and used each other's libraries. At that time, he said, politics was not a focal point of their activities although they held anti-British and Zionist stands. He sees the existence of private libraries in Palestine before 1948 as a testament to "the concern of the population of Palestine for science and education."

The Library Under Threat

The current owner of the Khalidi library, Haider al-Khalidi, would not comment on why the library has not reopened since 1967 except by special request for a tour or particular book or manuscript. The custodian of the al-Aqsa Mosque library, where most of the books and manuscripts of the old private libraries were donated and transferred, offered to *Al Fajr* that the Khalidi family is afraid of having the library controlled by the Israelis. He said the Israelis have tried to take over the place several times in the last 17 years.

Despite this, Haider al-Khalidi is considering restoring the library building and regularly maintaining the collection, with the aid of money from family members outside. The library will continue to be family-owned and open to who ever wants to use it. He himself still keeps a register of the names of people who visited the library from 1934 until 1974. Many of the visitors are from Europe and many are Jewish. "We will try our best to have the library resume its role towards promoting thought and culture," he said.

continued from page 11

El - Hakawati

El-Hakawati Before the Establishment of Its Centre

In the years between 1977 and 1984, the El-Hakawati troupe acted in towns, villages, camps, institutions and universities in all parts of Palestine. They also participated in academic symposia on their work.

Confident in the level of their achievement, the el-Hakawati troupe took their shows to Western Europe, Tunsia and Poland to rave reviews.

Audiences are generally impressed by the group's enthusiasm and creativity.

They have a unique way of working. El-Hakawati members share in forming, building and binding scenes together. They describe their style as "community work." Radi Shehadeh said, "We are not traditional actors and actresses. Our style is not to memorise acts and scenes but to make them."

A member of the audience at the opening had this praise: "It seems that Abu Salem succeded in putting his finger on a society with all of its contradictory aspects of culture and politics. It is agreed that el-Hakawati has pushed forward theatre in the occupied territories.".

The mayors of Nablus and Ramallah, Bassam Shaka'a and Karim Khalaf, are both el-Hakawati fans. They have both provided testimonials to the group's role in maintaining Palestinian culture. Many Palestinian figures have stressed the importance of the new theatre and arts centre in developing and maintaining popular talents.

Advocate Jonathan Kuttab said:

el-Hakawati stands out as a shining example of the stubborn will not only to survive but also to excel. In their chosen media, this group of energetic young men and women are accomplishing a lively, creative, expressive and technical manifestation of Palestinian society."

El-Hakawati refuses to be restricted to European stereotypes of oriental culture, Kuttab said, who joined el-Hakawati in 1979 and acted in *Mahjoub Mahjoub* and *1001 Nights of a Stone-Thrower*: "A typical Arab man as portrayed in European films is greedy and sexist. El-Hakawati rejects this depiction and gives the opportunity for Arab artists to convey the essence of Arab culture."

Nuzha cinema before renovation

Kuttab says, "I was attracted to Hakawati as a way to express my opnion in art."

Other Members of El-Hakawati

Jacki Lubeck, 30, is American. She is el-Hakawati's designer and a capable actress. Lubeck has been in all of el-Hakawati's plays.

Edward Mu'alem, 26, from Melia in the Galilee, is a founding member of el-Hakawati. He is a capable artist and has had major roles in el-Hakawati's plays. He also acted in a forthcoming film, *Behind the Bars*, dealing with conditions of Palestinian prisoners.

Ibrahim Khalyieh, 26, from Majd al-Krum, is a student of criminology at the Hebrew University. All his acting experience comes from working with el-Hakawati. He says, "I am quite happy working in el-Hakawati because I can convey the essential characteristics of the Palestinian culture."

Afif Safieh, researcher at the Catholic University of Louvain and a political advisor to Chairman Yasser Arafat, gave the following interview to Al Fajr. Safieh, a participant in the Harvard University Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in February this year, also assesses the impact and importance of that meeting.

Interview with Afif Safieh: An Opportunity for Peaceful 'Retaliation'

Q: What did the Palestinian participants in the Harvard Symposium think of the three principles of Mr Sarid's speech?

A: I think the five of us considered them as encouraging and promising, yet insufficiently encouraging and insufficiently promising. They would become more promising if they were to be the official policy of the Alignment and not only the expression of a minority tendency. They would be truly encouraging if they explicitly mentioned the necessity for total withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967. And principle three (Israel should respect the outcome of Palestinian self-determination) would be more credible if the Labour's preference for the Jordanian option did not complete that same sentence.

In Harvard, Sarid explicitly mentioned that Israel should respect Palestinian self-determination *whatever* the outcome. Then I think, if this clause is respected, it is our trust in our people that makes us confident. A democratic consultation with no external interference scares no Palestinian.

Q: What was your personal contribution in the Harvard Symposium?

A: With your permission, I would like first to recall that the organiser of this seminar, Professor Herbert Kelman, had written an article in 1982 in *Foreign Policy*, an article which at the time did not pass unnoticed, entitled 'A Talk With Arafat,' in which he courageously advocated that the American administration should open an official dialogue with the PLO and no longer feel committed to and tied by the Kissinger doctrine.

I would also like to recall that [former US Undersectretary of State] Harold Saunders said in his speech that he was in favour of Palestinian self-determination and that he and other American officials were forbidden by three successive presidents to use that concept because it had become a code word to sovereign state.

As to Herman Eilts, previously American ambassador to Egypt and to Saudi Arabia, he voiced his opinion in favour of a global peace conference in which the Soviet Union should necessarily participate and he added, addressing the American audience, "Let's face it, the Soviets are there and it is not such a conference that will introduce them or legitimise their presence."

One has to admit that these three opinions are deviant opinions as compared to the negative and hostile official American policy.

To come back to your question, I made two interventions. The first one was to comment on the speeches delivered by the Israeli panelists.

[I said that] in any Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, there is a psychological barrier which has to be overcome first. The Palestinian side needs to realise that the Israeli side feels, if not guilty, at least responsible for the ordeal to which our people was subjected.

The Palestinian people is today cornered in between American mediocracy and Israeli democracy.

What you call Israeli democracy is for us Palestinians an aggravating circumstance and not an attenuating circumstance because if it proves anything, it proves that the oppression which befell us has always enjoyed the support of the majority of Israeli public opinion.

One has to remember that Israeli violence has made in three days many more victims than Palestinian violence in three decades.

We, the Palestinians, believe that the Palestinian state will emerge as a result of the convergence of struggle of those, on the one hand, who want to liberate the occupied territories [from] Israel and those, on the other hand, who want to liberate Israel of its occupied territories.

Afif Safieh, seated on the left

Q: During the second panel you were asked to speak about Palestinian perspectives.

A: Yes, and in order to speak of perspectives, one has to start with perceptions.

Justice-seeking and peace-loving forces should try to contradict [German philosopher] Hegel's pessimistic diagnosis that "from history we learn that we haven't learned from history."

In order to learn from history, we cannot evacuate it from our discussion, especially that future peace should not be the reflection of the actual balance or rather imbalance of forces but should remedy the historical injustice that was introduced by the brutal birth of the state of Israel.

The Palestinian perception is the following:

That Zionism has transformed the oppressed of one continent into the oppressors of another; the Palestinians today are the heirs of Jewish sufferings.

The Israeli leadership has shown so far an elastic conception of the frontiers of their state and has been indifferent to international public opinion, blind in their belief of a divine mission for a chosen people on a promised land.

The Palestinian national movement has sought to break the dialectics of oppression by presenting the project of a democratic, multi-confessional and pluri-ethnical state. Unfortunately, the humanistic inspiration and ethical dimension of such a proposal was misunderstood and rejected.

The PLO has succeeded in achieving the collective and national resurrection of the Palestinian people.

Since 1974, the basis of Palestinian claims is international legality, namely the right of return, self-determination and independent statehood.

Since 1974, the PLO's policies can be described as realistic. But one should not confuse realism with resignation.

Since 1974, the PLO has sent several political signals; the idea of a Palestinian state in parts of Palestine; it welcomed the joint American-Soviet communique in October 1977, the Brezhnev plan and the French-Egyptian draft resolution in the UN [last year]; the PLO participated in the elaboration of the Fez Arab Summit plan [of 1982].

The peace camp is in power within the PLO while, unfortunately, the peace camp is a minority tendency in Israel.

If Chairman Arafat is facing internal dissension, it is because his political courage was not reciprocated.

Since 1973, there are two competing approaches to peace. The Israelis prefer the bilateral and partial approach because it allows them to deal separately with each neighbour, thus imposing conditions which otherwise would have been unacceptable. This approach has proven to be destabilising to the whole area. The PLO and others prefer a global approach in which all parties concerned participate on the basis of international resolutions as terms of reference.

In any future peace process, the final outcome should be known from the very start and all intermediary steps should be taken in function of that previously defined desirable outcome.

Confidence-building will come through speed, not through slowness or delay in the process.

With Yasir Arafat, the Palestinians already have their statesman. They still need their state.

Today in the Middle East, we have either a people too many or we are short of a state. Should we allow the extermination and the dispersion of that people or should we promote the birth of the missing state?

Q: Some feared that this seminar aimed at promoting the Jordanian option...

A: This preoccupation is legitimate but was totally unjustified. As a matter of fact, I was asked about the future relations with Jordan and my answer was that this unfortunately was often dealt with in an inappropriate manner. Insisting and emphasising, as a precondition to a settlement, that there should be a necessary link is the best way to transform a desirable objective into a suspicious one. Any future relation should be the result of the free voluntary volition of both parties. And the Palestinians, I said, are in favour of a future relationship, a privileged relationship, which they see within a confederal framework between two sovereign political entities, as the Palestine National Council resolutions stipulate.

Q: On what basis did you participate in this seminar?

A: Like everybody else, on a personal basis. Strictly in a private capacity. I was introduced as a researcher in the Centre for European Studies in the Catholic University of Louvain, in Belgium. Nevertheless, my political activities were not omitted in this introduction. I would like to add that all the Palestinian participants abided by the official policy of the PLO. Out of deep conviction.

No, the Harvard symposium was neither a plot nor a trap. It did not aim at revitalising Camp David or the Reagan Plan. Nor was it destined to obtain a Palestinian endorsement for the American administration or the [Israeli] Labour Party's unacceptable policies. On the contrary, especially since this seminar took place in the aftermath of the dramatic turn of events of Tripoli, it was an important forum, American forum, in which emphasis was made that the PLO was an irremovable factor in Middle Eastern reality. It proved that five Palestinians coming from five different locations, some not knowing one another before hand, would collectively and homogeneously defend an identical point of view.

Q: Are you in favour of the repetition of such encounters?

A: Dialogues are not an aim in themselves. Negotiations also are not an aim in themselves. The target, the objective, is the desirable final outcome. This can only be achieved by the Israeli government on the Israeli side and the PLO on the Palestinian side. Unfortunately, so far, Israeli programmes are beneath the level of Palestinian acceptability. If the [Labour] Alignment wins, it will only be a change of coalition but not a real change in policy. The two remaining months [before the Israeli Knesset elections] should be used for a political reassessment by the Israeli public. I hope they would bear in mind what Rabbi Abraham Heschel said during the war in Vietnam: "In a democratic society, some are guilty, *all* are responsible."

Each Israeli citizen on July 23 should know that while casting his vote he is choosing between war and peace. He not only decides Israel's future but also the Palestinian future. It is really an irony of history that parties which still deny the Palestinian people its basic rights expect to be rewarded and not penalised by the voters.

Let us hope that Yasir Arafat's statement to the French weekly *Le Nouvel Observateur* will be taken into consideration by the political class and by the public opinion. There is still time. That declaration is an opening which should not be ignored. On behalf of the Palestinian people, Yasir Arafat is again saying, "Do not let the olive branch drop from my hand." The [Israeli] International Centre for Peace in the Middle East and the 30 Knesset members affiliated to it, all Israeli political parties are expected not to fail in responding to this new proposition. It is a moment of truth. Future credibility depends on the response.

Israel has accustomed the world to massive and disproportionate retaliations. Now there is an opportunity, a possibility, for a positive and peaceful "retaliation."

Five Americans were arrested last month for terrorist activities against Palestinians. The US correspondent of Israeli daily *HaAretz* writes about how the religious militancy of *Kach* followers in Israel grew from US roots in the Jewish Defence League.

The JDL: Supplying Kach with Manpower for the Underground

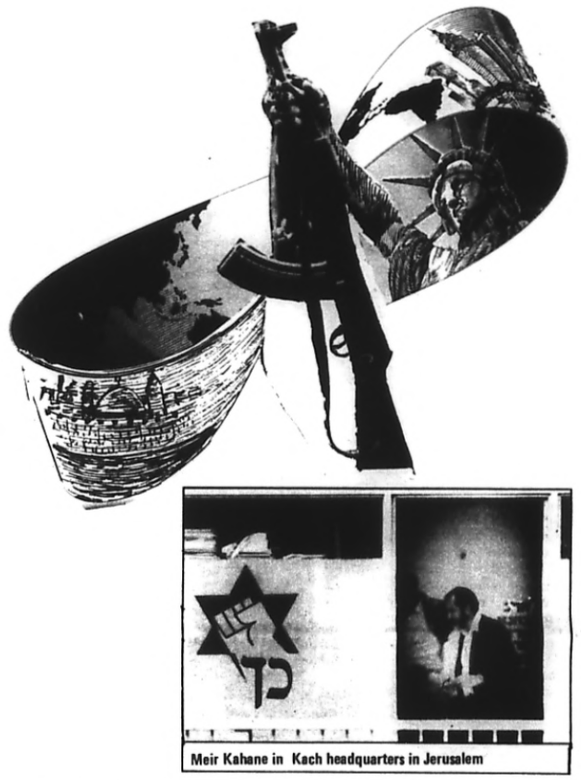
Meir Leibowitz and Craig Leitner, who are charged in Israel with shooting at a bus full of Arab passengers, grew up in Brooklyn, New York. They paid occasional visits to a small and dirty office on Kings Highway near the Brooklyn railway station. On the second floor, above a cake shop, there is a flat with piles of documents, newspapers, old typewriters and dusty files. There is also a small hall with weights and body building equipment which proves you are indeed in the office of the Jewish Defence League, founded by Rabbi Meir Kahane.

Meir Leibowitz and Craig Leitner were members of the League in Brooklyn and were trained in its summer camp in Scarsdale. To understand the basic education of Leibowitz and Leitner it is worth listening to Faran Rosenblatt, the present national director of the Jewish Defence League. Perhaps it is better to describe her first. She's about 23 years old, has a severe face, without make-up, and dresses in long clothes like a student in one of the Jewish girls' schools, Beit Ya'acov, Jerusalem. Six or seven years ago, when she was a regular American girl, she was taken by the League's views and completely changed her way of life. She became a penitent, an admirer of Rabbi Kahane, and emigrated to Israel to study at the Agudat Israel college, Jerusalem. She then returned to the States to manage the League's affairs. She intends to settle in Israel.

Meir Leibowitz and Craig Leitner have a past similar to Faran Rosenblatt. They too have maintained an extreme-religious way of life in recent years. Leibowitz is a penitent and so, apparently, is Leitner. (This is not definitely clear: according to one report, Leitner was a film student until he became a penitent; other reports say he has been a *yeshiva* student for some years now.) They were also in the front line of League activity in the US. They have a burning belief in the justice of Rabbi Kahane's doctrine. According to their friends in New York, Leibowitz and Leitner were arrested occasionally by the local police when they were involved in demonstrations.

Before we listen to Faran's doctrine, a third hero should be presented. Yehuda Richter from Los Angeles is also a League member who was arrested in Israel on suspicion of shooting at the bus. The picture repeats itself: young, extremely pious, active in League demonstrations in his hometown and a fanatic disciple of Rabbi Kahane. Benny Landau, *HaAretz* correspondent in Los Angeles, spoke to Irv Rubin and Greg Young, Richter's friends, or rather authoritative teachers. Their views are identical to Faran Rosenblatt's. Here is, then, the doctrine on which Leibowitz, Leitner and Richter were raised and which they brought over to Israel when they emigrated.

The 'Gospel according to the League,' as it is transmitted to its members in the US, says that an assault on Arabs is the fulfillment of a *mitzva* (religious injunction) from the *Torah* because it revenges the killing of Jews on the holy soil. Assassinations of Arabs are the concretisation of the Godly commandments: "Thou shall not stand on the blood of your friend" (remain aloof while he is in danger — tr) and "If anyone comes to kill you, kill him first." Islam is an insane religion that promises believers 100 orgasms a day if they enter paradise after being killed for their faith. A religious Jew understands the Arab world while a secular Jew loses the clear potential for defence against them (Arabs) because of their liberal views.



Meir Kahane in Kach headquarters in Jerusalem

The government of Israel doesn't embody Jewish Law and is not based on *Torah* Law. Israeli law is drawn from Turkish and British laws. Democracy does not necessarily fit with Judaism. Israel needs a single ruler, a religious genius. Democracy that enables PLO activity in the West Bank is not good. Democracy that imprisons a youth who defended himself against attack (referring to League member Israel Fuchs who was tried for shooting in Hebron) is not good. Israel cannot exist with a fifth column in the form of its Arab inhabitants. You must not turn your back on an Arab because they will stab you in the back. The use of violence is often necessary, for instance when Jews' lives are in danger. Judaism's heroes were fighters like Moses, David and Bar Kokhba. Rabbi Kahane is the prophet Jeremiah who calls on the Jews to break contact with the Arabs. The West Bank is more Jewish than Petah-Tikva and Tel Aviv because the ancestors walked there.

Leibowitz, Leitner, Rosenblatt and their friends came to the JDL from the world of the *yeshiva* high schools in New York and Los Angeles. They are enrolled in institutions like the Shulamit Girls' High School in Brooklyn, Stern College, Brooklyn College, Queens's College and Manhatten Talmudic Academy. When they are older they get infected by the League bacteria in an institute like the *Yeshiva* University. In the *yeshiva* high schools student groups for solidarity with USSR Jews were organised. Rabbi Kahane, in spite of his emigration to Israel, is considered to be the outstanding figure in the struggle for USSR Jewry. He continues to maintain his ties with League members in the US by weekly telephone calls, current correspondence and frequent visits. Because of this, he and the League continue to be considered the vanguard of the struggle for Jewish-national affairs, primarily the case of USSR Jewry. Mainly extreme youths join the JDL, aggressive and eager for action. They are attracted in the framework of activities in solidarity with USSR Jewry. There are various groups — the 'Challenge Group,' 'Jewish Direct Action Groups,' 'Jewish Group for USSR Jewry' (the names of the organisations active in the *Yeshiva* University). From among its 600 students, not more than 15-20 are active in these organisations and from these only a few drop into the JDL. These youths were involved in various actions: beginning with organising defence groups for elderly Jewish women in the Bronx and ending with an attack on a Soviet diplomat and the puncturing of his car tyres. They demonstrate in front of the Soviet Embassy and beat up Palestinian students on street corners. The religious and national aspects of *Eretz Israel* studies take a good part of their school and university academic programmes; a minority among them are not satisfied with theoretical study but wish to act in a practical way for the sake of Israel's interests. These find their way to the shabby office in Brooklyn or to the Scarsdale summer camp.

Shifrah Hoffman is the connecting joint between the activity of the League youth in the streets of New York and Los Angeles and their decision to emigrate to Israel. Hoffman is a journalist who has a little broadcasting station in New York that brings the word of the League to the air; she is obsessively busy in collecting data about anti-Semitic expression in the US. The documentation that she collects is intended to support Rabbi Kahane's doctrine: a danger of physical holocaust is hovering over American Jews. The Nazi beast has awakened and threatens to impose a horrible holocaust on the Jews of America. Therefore they must emigrate to Israel in order to save themselves and to maintain at the same time the *mitzva* of settlement on the land.

Leibowitz, Leitner and Richter didn't reach Israel through the immigration department of the (Jewish) Agency. Moshe Shechter, director of the immigration department in the US, says that the three are not on the list of immigrants nor on the list of 885 candidates for immigration who are defined as 'problematic' (those whose immigration the department tries to delay because they have raised the suspicion of mediators, relating to their fitness for Israel). The three immigrated independently, apparently as tourists who later changed their status; they didn't attract the attention of Yigal Marcus, the Israeli police representative in the US. They don't have files with the local police.

The eccentrics who emigrate to Israel, says the general consul of Israel in New York, Naftali Lavie, who meets personally with each immigrant when they obtain an entry-visa to Israel, are not the true reflection of immigrants. But they echo the conditions that prevail now in Israel and that invite violence. The three belong to that group of youths who have extreme nationalistic attitudes, which was encountered by the immigration dealer Ramoth, and who are prepared, according to his impression, to take the law into their own hands. The three belong to that young religious population who are restless and who, according to the testimony of Elimelek Landner, representative of the youth wing of the (Israeli) National Religious Party in the US, don't find a place within accepted movement activity. They and the rest of their emigrant friends (the number of immigrants from the League in the past three years is about 75, according to the League leaders in the US. The large majority went to live in the West Bank; a significant number of the emigrants are 'penitents') don't represent the central stream of American Jewry, says Rabbi Wolf Kalman, deputy president of the Conservative Movement. They are nevertheless a reflection — an extreme reflection — of a wider phenomenon of religious emigration. (Translation: Ha-Aretz, March 30, 1984.)

Should fascists be allowed to run lists for the Israeli Knesset elections? **Rafael Barqan** of *Al Hamishmar* went back over the records and concluded that if the Israelis were willing to ban the Palestinian *Al Ard* in the '60s, they can and should outlaw the fascist Kach movement now.

Kach **and** Al Ard:

Lopsided Justice

On Tuesday, April 3, citizens of Israel were given the special privilege of looking behind the scenes at the Knesset's work. The Israeli television programme *Second View* monitored the meeting of the Constitution, Law and Justice Committee when it discussed Mapam MK Ya'ir Tazban's resolution relating to the legality of the *Kach* movement of Rabbi Kahane. The time has come for an open door discussion of the subject, primarily because on the eve of elections a democratic society must examine itself and answer the question: is it possible to let a list that preaches racism run in Knesset elections?

From the discussion, the viewer learned that long ago the chairperson of the central election board, Judge Etzioni, proposed cancelling the *Kach* list on the grounds of racist incitement. But he remained in the minority on the board because the representatives of lists in the board didn't agree to take such an extreme step. The viewer also learned that the matter was already discussed in the High Court — and the right to stand for elections has not been taken from Rabbi Kahane.

The Al-Ard Case

In order to understand the power given to the Israeli democracy to eliminate any list of candidates on the grounds that it threatens the foundations of the state, we raise the case of the *al-Ard* group. This ruling has many interesting aspects. One of them, for instance, is the legal validity of the Declaration of Independence. Usually, it has no regular legal but only declarative-normative power. And this is indeed what was defined by the judgement in the file Elections Appeal/1/65. It was based on the Declaration of Independence — to reveal the basic norms of the state of Israel — aiming to examine if that 'List of Socialists' [the title of the *al-Ard* list — eds] contravenes them. Indeed, the High Court only examined the basis of the state as a Jewish state — however, at the moment that it states that the Declaration of Independence has normative value for the definition of the state's foundation, it is impossible to use one part of it and not the rest.

Let's take the Declaration of Independence and face the problem. In its Preamble, the legal elements which confirm the legitimacy of the establishment of the state are counted. Among them is the Balfour Declaration:

This right (the Jewish people's right for 'national resurrection' in its country — RB) *was recognised in the Balfour Declaration from November 2, 1917 and was confirmed in the mandate of the League of Nations, that specifically gave international validity to the historic connection between the Jewish people and* Eretz Israel *and the Jewish people's right to re-establish its national home.*

However, in the abovementioned letter from Balfour to Lord Rothschild there were two elements. The first spoke of a "national home for the Jewish people in *Eretz Israel*" and the second included a clear and explicit condition that "nothing will be done to infringe the civil and religious rights of the non-Jewish population in *Eretz Israel*..."

In other words, whoever infringes the legitimate basis on which the state of the Jews in *Eretz Israel* is founded, infringes the foundations of the state and its judgement is like that [of the *al-Ard* case].

To Knock Down Four Columns

We can draw an inference from a legal document that is counted in the Preamble, on which the Declaration of Independence bases the legitimacy of Israel — UN Resolution 181/2 of November 29, 1947.

In another place in the declaration itself it states:

"The state of Israel will be prepared to cooperate with the institutions and the representatives of the United Nations for the realisation of the Assembly's resolution of November 29, 1947 and will act for the establishment of the economic unity of the whole of Eretz Israel."

The assembly resolution of November 29 had four main components: establishment of a Jewish state, establishment of an Arab state, establishment of a *Corpus Separatum* for the Jerusalem area and economic unity between the two states.

Economic unity is mentioned at the end of the article; the beginning speaks about the rest of the resolution including equality in rights for minority inhabitants remaining on both sides of the borderline between the Jewish state and the Arab state.

And indeed, in the preceding article of the declaration, all the components of the 'Credo' of the image of the state of Israel are included, among them:

"The state of Israel — will maintain totally equal social and political rights for all its citizens without distinctions of religion, race and sex; will secure freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; will guard the holy places of all the religions; and will be loyal to the principles of the United Nations charter."

Seven columns are founding Israel's basis, four of them are quoted here — and the Kahane group definitely contradicts them and incites for their removal. At the end of the declaration it makes four calls: to the United Nations — "to accept the state of Israel into the family of nations"; to the Jewish people in all the diaspora to unite around Israel; two calls to the neighbouring Arab states to protect peace with it; and a call to the Arab inhabitants of Israel:

"We call also, during the months-long bloody assault on us, to the members of the Arab people, inhabitants of the state of Israel, to keep the peace and to take part in the construction of the state on the basis of full and equal citizenship and on the basis of suitable representation in all its institutions, temporary and permanent."

This call is also objected to by Rabbi Kahane's group. Here there should be unequivocal repetition of the statement by High Court Judge Shimon Agranat in article 4 and article 6 of the abovequoted judgements. His personal tendency was to support the minority opinion of Judge Haim Cohen but the judgement, the majority opinion, was much more severe. The minority opinion drew authority from the fact that in the Knesset law of election there is only one single reference to the possibility of eliminating a list of condidates (and it seems that the relevance is to technicalities only). Article 64(a) reads:

"If the central board refuses to confirm a list of candidates in whole or one candidate's name or the symbol of the list [Israeli lists are represented by a Hebrew and Arabic letter, or both — eds], the board will inform the list's representative and his deputy and they are entitled to appeal the rejection to the High Court."

It is not the task of the central election board on the eve of elections to do what the state authorities didn't during the four years between two elections. The subject of racism should be returned to the state's agenda. By this, the television has done a great deed — it is impermissable that the infection be allowed to spread hiding behind the excuse that the Rabbi Kahane group is a segmented group of extreme madmen and therefore there is no danger to the state's image. This group should be daily and repeatedly condemned, along with the opinions it expresses. And if, nevertheless, the danger spreads, it should be outlawed — but not as the accidental act of the central election board on the eve of elections but in a brave contest with racism. The laws which exist now are enough to carry this out. (Translation: Al Hamishmar, April 6, 1984).

Elections Appeal 1/65

Ya'aqov Yaridor vs. chairperson of the central elections board for the sixth Knesset.

The central elections board for the sixth Knesset refused to confirm a list of candidates of called 'The Socialists' List,' the majority of whose candidates belonged to the outlawed *al-Ard* group. The aims of *al-Ard* were defined in a High Court judgement as totally and definitely negating the existence of the state of Israel. The elections board, in its argument, repeated these definitions: "This list of candidates is illegal because its initiators negate the wholeness of the state of Israel and the very existence of it."

The candidates appealed, and to the High Court. The court, President Shimon Agranat and Judges Yoel Zussman and Haim Cohen, rejected it by a majority vote — those of Agranat and Zussman.

Here are excerpts from the judgements and the arguments of the three judges as they appear in Zvi Yaffe's book *Knesset Elections Laws*.

The main arguments for rejecting the appeal come from the judgement of president Agranat and are the following:

1. According to the declaration on the establishment of the state, the state of Israel is not only a sovereign and independent peace-seeking state that is characterised by a democratic regime but it was also established "as a Jewish state in *Eretz Israel*."

The act of establishing the state was made primarily by the power of the natural and historical right of the Jewish people to live like all and every people that is independent in its sovereign state and it lives in it also because of the realisation of the desire of generations for the redemption of Israel...

2. The meaning of the 'Credo' is that the continuity, and if you wish to say "the eternal nature of the state of Israel, constitutes a basic constitutional fact" that by no means should any of the state's authorities — whether the administrative authority or the juridical or quasi-juridical — ignore it when activating any of its powers. If they did so, the meaning of it would be a total maligning of the two wars that the state of Israel had fought since its establishment to prevent its annihilation by hostile Arab countries. It would mean totally contradicting the history of the Jewish people and its aspirations, including the fact of the Holocaust that occurred to the people of Israel in the period preceding the establishment of the state, that Holocaust in which millions of Jews in Europe were led to slaughter and that proved again — in the words of the Declaration — "the recognition of the problem of the homeland-denied people in *Eretz Israel*. (these are the words of the honorable President Agranat, on page 386).

3. The constitutional particular that the courts should take into account when interpreting state laws, and especially laws with a constitutional character, is the particular that the state of Israel is a long-lasting state and there is no ground to appeal its continuity and eternity.

4. It should be emphasised and brought to attention that it should not be concluded from my words that I cancel the right of the appealing list's signatories to vote for the Knesset and I even do not cancel the right of this list's candidates, individually, to be elected to the Knesset and therefore also not their right that their names be included in a certain list of candidates. However, voting in the elections for the Knesset is not a vote for individual candidates but merely voting for lists of candidates (article 4(a) of the Law of Elections for the Knesset 1959). The meaning of this system is that voting in Knesset elections is like voting for a group of people that hold a certain political aim. So that the presumption should be that if this group were elected to the Knesset, its members would act there to "unite the people's will in the direction of that aim" (p. 387).

5. Indeed, in the regular manner the central elections board, when it activates its power to decide to confirm a certain list of candidates, must not check the fidelity of the candidates or speculate about their political views; however, this rule doesn't stand when the attention of the board is drawn to the fact that the appealing list is identical with a group of people which the High Court of Justice stated constitutes an illegal association because its aim is to negate totally and definitely the existence of the state of Israel and in sequence of that statement that group was declared an illegal organisatjon. "Given these facts, the central board had no choice but to decide not to confirm the appealing list" (p. 387). (Translation: Al Hamishmar, April 6, 1984)

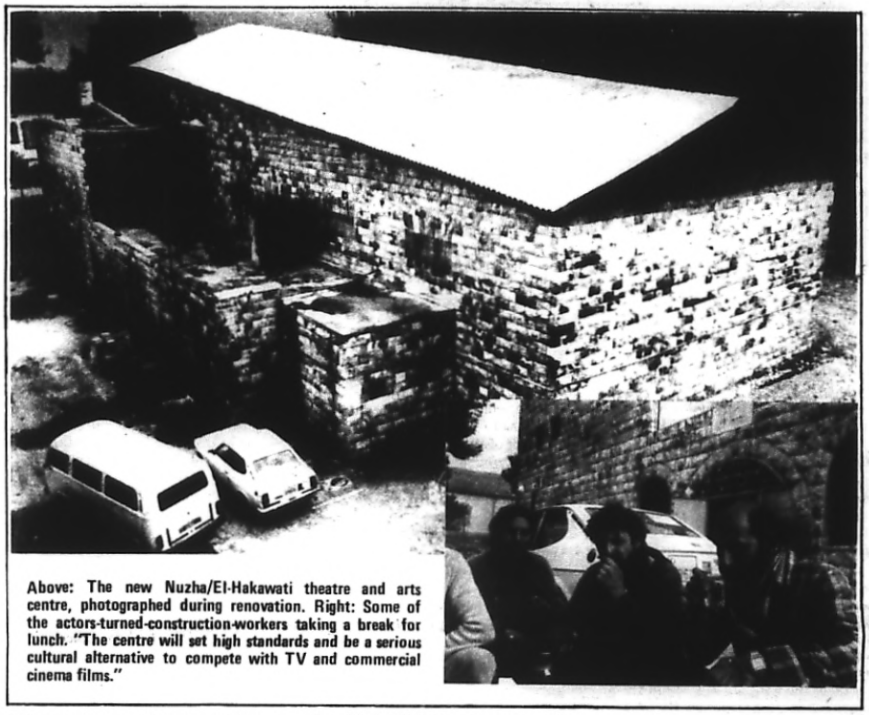
El-Hakawati's Theatre and Arts Centre: 'The Story-Teller' Builds a Home

El-Hakawati troupe, since its establishment in 1977, has proved itself a continuing example of creative theatre. The opening of a theatre centre — a fantasty of el-Hakawati for several year — is the latest proof.

The Nuzha/El-Hakawati Theatre and Arts Centre, which officially opened earlier this month, is the first in the occupied territories. Six months of hard work transformed the burned-out old Nuzha Cinema — removing the rubble, piles of garbage and ruined chairs and completely reconstructing the shell — into a theatre and arts centre which has already attracted local writers, actors and other artists, as well as the general public, to its events.

Those who saw the Nuzha after it was leased by el-Hakawati can hardly believe the transformation. Everything has been radically changed: the main auditorium can now seat 400 people. There is a 120 square metre stage and a dressing room large enough for 10 actors. A 70-square metre all-purpose room is at the back of the centre for rehearsals, art exhibitions and small theatre. Sophisticated sound and light systems were installed. It also has its own small cafeteria, kitchen and store rooms.

The theatre is located a short distance from Damascus Gate in the centre of East Jerusalem and is near three hotels and an archaeological site. Since the May 9 opening, thousands of people have already attended musical and theatre performances.



Above: The new Nuzha/El-Hakawati theatre and arts centre, photographed during renovation. Right: Some of the actors-turned-construction-workers taking a break for lunch. "The centre will set high standards and be a serious cultural alternative to compete with TV and commercial cinema films."

Opening Celebration

The out-of-doors opening ceremony took the form of a Palestinian wedding. A Bedouin tent was erected to house members of *Farafir* theatre troupe, who joined el-Hakawati and actors from the Ramallah Friends Girls School in the festival.

The opening was generally well-received, but there were critics. "We came to see a Palestinian festival but we found it containing Western music and dances. The Palestinian wedding was not an exclusively Palestinian cultural event," said one.

Radi Shehadeh, 32, a former teacher from Maghar village in the Galilee and one of the founders of el-Hakawati, rationalised: "Hakawati does not follow a traditional sterotype. We bring new things and time will be the arbiter of our achievements." Shehadeh, who works with his wife Munira in el-Hakawati theatre, participated in most of el-Hakawati's performances. Before joining the Jerusalem-based group, Munira and Radi founded a theatrical troupe, *Masrah al-Balad*, in Maghar.

El-Hakawati director Francois Abu Salem, 32, is the moving force behind the troupe. He is, since the 1970s, a veteran of three troupes: *Balalin*, *Beta-lin* and Sandouq Ajab. With the opening of the Nuzha/El-Hakawati centre, Abu Salem is now busy managing activities there as well as preparing plays for performance. "Now we have passed the stage of dreams and move into the realm of practise," he said when *Al Fajr* visited the centre last week. Abu Salem was busy with major and minor details of the working of the centre. Around him the rest of the Hakawatis, Edward Mu'alem, Radi and Munira, Da'oud Kuttab, Ibrahim Khalyleh and Jacki Lubeck, were busy with lighting, setting the stage and work in the cafeteria.

spoke about his experience of 14 years on the stage. "We have witnessed since 1967 the birth of a unique theatrical movement," Abu Salem said. "It is not only a theatre

or maintains Palestinian culture but is also an aesthetic theatre.

"The establishment of a centre gives us facilities with which to work but complicates our financial problems," Abu Salem noted. "We need US$51,000 to cover our present deficit." Speaking about plans for the future, Abu Salem sees money for running the theatre as the only serious obstacle.

Da'oud Kuttab, el-Hakawati's spokesperson, is enthusiastic about the future: "It is only the beginning. I hope the centre will serve art and artists from all parts of Palestine. The centre will set high standards and be a serious cultural alternative to compete with TV and commerical cinema films.

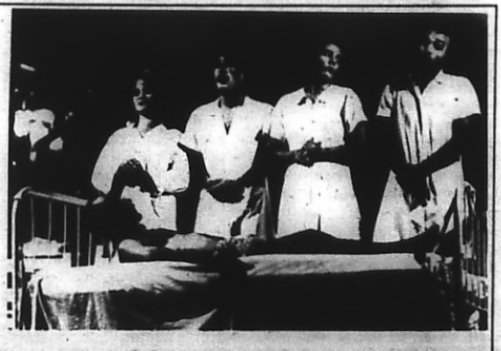
El-Hakawati has a five-year plan for the centre, during which adult and youth arts workshops, a cinema club, a taping centre and a vidio cassette library will be established. Nuzha/El-Hakawati will also sponsor an international theatrical festival.

continued on page 7

1001 Nights of a Stone-Thrower

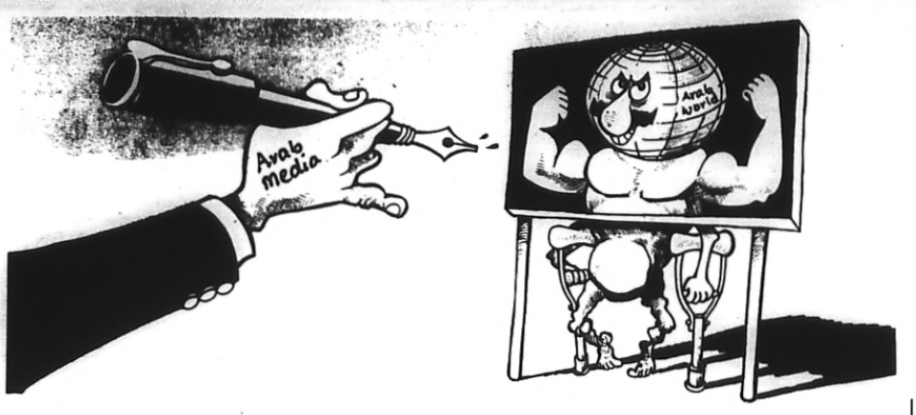
Left: Edward Mu'alem, playing Sit al-Hara, alias Um Mustafa, alias Shaharazad — sorcerer, healer and the grandmother of the stone-thrower.

Ali, the Galilean



Right: Ali/Eli (on bed) being treated by Professor Effestine, professor of Arab Israeology, and his host of nurses. They are trying to cure Ali/Eli's split personality by forcing him to choose either Palestinian or Israeli symbols in his 'treatment.'

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS



The conclusion of the Algiers meetings, the fire at Bir Zeit and new developments in the Gulf war received top coverage in the local papers this week.

Al Fajr and Al Sha'ab made the Algiers meeting of Palestinian factions their top story while Al Quds gave it little attention. Al Quds gave major coverage, with a front-page map, to the Gulf war and the attacks on international oil tankers.

All papers gave major space to the fire that broke out in a section of the Palestine Week festivities at Bir Zeit. Al Fajr published editorials two consecutive days about the fire.

Democracy, Jordan-Style

It is natural that the statements by the Jordanian prime minister to the House of Representatives on freedom received special attention in the occupied territories. The people here, like their brothers in the East Bank, are affected by the anti-democratic policies of respective Jordanian governments. There are many students, workers, peasants, academicians and traders who were hurt by this policy when they were either banned from crossing the bridges or from travelling abroad via Jordan, or arrested or taken with others for degrading questioning.

But they were not satisfied with this. There are attempts to export some of these anti-democratic methods to inside the occupied territories, using money and administrative measures against popular unions and organisations under the pretext of their being of Communist-influenced. They put the condition that these local institutions should get rid of elected members of their administrative committees if they are to receive housing loans or any simpler form of aid. There were cases when the Jordanian secret service intervened to prevent the hiring of certain qualified individuals in some institutions which receive aid from Jordan simply because of their political views.

The important thing is that this policy, which Jordan's prime minister defended, is of value to our people in the occupied lands and outside because they are its victims and because it is an image of what it is going to be like under the 'confederation' which the Jordanian regime keeps talking about.

There is no doubt that it is not appealing to our students, workers or academics, or any sector of our society which has to suffer and sacrifice for a bright future for itself in freedom and democracy. Whether the 'representatives' were forced to express popular demands which the people had to suffer to get or said what they were told to say to make this council look credible and draw a picture of a fake 'democratic' life, no one missed the clear and frank conclusion that they said what they wanted or what they were told to say and agreed to continue with the present policy, and that the prime minister and the regime do whatever they want.

The prime minister justified everything the Jordanian secret services did under the pretext of keeping security. He considered anyone who opposes this Jordanian policy as either a weapons smuggler or one of those who planted bombs. This is because he justified all measures as concern for preventing such acts.

But what about freedom of speech, publication, political organisation, forming unions and even freedom of movement according to the international convention of human rights? All these rights were absent from Jordanian life for a long time and before there were any explosions and smuggling of weapons, if this is true anyhow, and before Jordan's relations with its neighbouring countries worsened.

This reality confirms that the true role of the Jordanian policy is to be anti-democratic. To use the excuse of explosions in order to take freedom away from the majority of the Jordanian population, does not convince anyone and does not agree with the spirit of this century. Neither does it serve efforts to utilise national resources for regaining national rights and moving towards freedom and progress.

The pretext of 'security' was behind all non-democratic measures and repression before 1967. Those who were behind it used to claim that 'security' means the security of the state. This claim proved to be false during the June 1967 war when the West Bank was occupied. It was obvious that harassing the nationalist forces then did not help steadfastness. On the contrary, it helped Israel occupy the West Bank.

Therefore, to use this pretext as a claim that it will help return the occupied land is nothing more than an attempt to deceive the people.

AL TALIA
May 17

Towards Real Peace

The statements by King Hussein to a French newspaper once again clarified the Jordanian position on reaching a solution to the Palestinian issue in addition to discussing other issues that have to do with this region.

Among the distinctive remarks of the Jordanian monarch is his talk on the policies of the Likud and the Alignment on the occupied territories. While the Alignment has moved towards moderation and a softening of its position, the ruling Likud insists on its position which claims all the land belongs to Israel.

There is no doubt the parliamentary elections in Israel will be a real test of Israeli opinion on the issues of peace and the occupied Arab land. The Israelis will be given two choices: negotiations for the return of the occupied land and having a just peace, or keeping the land and losing all opportunities for peace.

The process of peace requires that international parties other than the ones directly related to the conflict be involved in it. Events over the past two years have showed that when the US is left alone to find a peaceful solution, nothing positive comes out as long as it is not able to change its alliance with Israel.

In this respect, an international conference attended by superpowers like the USSR, West Europe and the US will help attempts for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, one of the most complicated crises in the world. The US and Israel should not obstruct any international effort to find a solution to this conflict, for the sake of the interests of all the people in this region.

AL QUDS
May 18

A United Arab Stance on Sports

To expect the Arabs to take a united political stand towards the American policies traditionally hostile to the Arab issues, and the Palestinian problems in particular, is something not being thought of, at least for the near future.

However, a question comes to our mind regarding the coming Olympics in Los Angeles. What would hurt the Arabs if they took a united stand regarding the Olympics as a challenge to the American committee on its refusal to receive the PLO teams in these games?

This committee made this decision as part of its acquiescence with the anti-Palestinian US policy. All the Arabs should reject this position and take a united position towards it. If the committee rescinded its decision, then that will be fine. If it did not, the least the Arab countries should do is to boycott the Olympics. This will be done to support the Palestinian issue as a general Arab duty and to convince the US that the Arabs can agree, even for once.

AL FAJR
May 21

Soviet-Palestinian Relations TALKS

Official talks were conducted over the past two days in the Soviet capital between a Fatah delegation and high-ranking Soviet officials. At the same time, a new PLO representative presented his credentials to the Soviet government. The appointment of this representative, who is the secretary of the revolutionary council of Fatah movement, indicates the importance the Palestinian leadership gives to its relationship with the Soviet Union. A message from Yasir Arafat was also delivered to the Soviet President.

If all these things indicate the strength of the bilateral relations between the PLO and the USSR, their timing also reflects more importance. This is because more solidarity and cooperation is needed to confront the imperialist attack in this region.

The Soviet position, which is a result of its support to the Palestinian people and which indicates its support to the legitimate Palestinian leadership and the independence of the Palestinian decision-making, plays a very important role because of the weight of the Soviet Union as a superpower which opposes imperialism and supports oppressed people.

We are confident that these talks, in addition to the visit Yasir Arafat will later make to the USSR, will bolster relations between the Palestinian and Soviet peoples.

AL SHA'AB
May 19

Charge Sheets for Jewish Underground Suspects

The 25 charged May 23, identified only by number since names have been withheld by the court, were accused as follows:

DEFENDANT NO. 1: Accused of planning to blow up the Dome of the Rock. He was one of those responsible for planning and organising the action. At his weapons plant in Kiryat Arba about 30 sabotage devices were prepared for this action. He is also accused of planning the attack on the heads of the National Guidance Committee in June 1980, planning the massacre at the Hebron Islamic College and planning the attack on the buses in April. In all these cases he trained and equipped the attackers. He was also involved in booby-trapping hand granades in Hebron mosques.

DEFENDANT NO. 2: Accused of participating in the organisation, planning, equipping and training of the attackers on the Temple Mount and the attempt to assassinate the National Guidance Committee heads.

DEFENDANT NO. 3: Accused of planning and executing the massacre at the Hebron Islamic College and being one of the initiators of the attack on the buses. He planned the planting of explosives in the buses. He was involved in planning and placing fragmentation grenades in Hebron mosques. He is solely accused of placing a grenade under a bleacher of a Hebron school football ground, which wounded two boys. He was invovled in preparing the attack on al-Aqsa.

DEFENDANT NO. 4: Accused of participating in the planning of attacks on al-Aqsa, the attempted assassination of the mayors and booby-trapping the buses. He knew about the planning of the college massacre and gave his blessing to it.

DEFENDANT NO. 5: Was involved in stealing explosives for the attack on al-Aqsa, the planning and attack on the National Guidance Committee (NGC) leaders and the attempt to booby-trap Ibrahim Dakkak's car. He provided the get-away car in the college massacre.

DEFENDANT NO. 6: Accused of being involved in the plot to attack al-Aqsa and planning the attack on the NGC heads. He was involved in preparing devices to attack the buses.

DEFENDANT NO. 7: Was involved in preparing the attacks on al-Aqsa and the buses.

DEFENDANT NO. 8: Was involved in the plot to attack al-Aqsa and prepared the attack. Made observations of Ibrahim Dakkak's house during the attempt to assassinate NGC heads.

DEFENDANT NO. 9: Participated in the preparation of the planned attack on al-Aqsa. Made observations during the attempted assassination of NGC leaders and also helped obtain shells for the attempted attack on the buses.

DEFENDANT NO. 10: Accused of being involved in the plot to attack al-Aqsa and preparing the assassination attacks on the NGC leaders.

DEFENDANT NO. 11: Was involved in planning the attack on al-Aqsa and the assassination of the NGC leaders. He was designated to booby-trap Ibrahim Dakkak's car, but the attack didn't take place. Involved in the attack on the buses.

DEFENDANT NO. 12: Was involved in the planning of the Hebron University massacre. Shot and threw grenades in the college. Was involved in planning the attack on the buses and attached bombs to them. Was involved in planting booby-trapped grenades in Hebron mosques.

DEFENDANT NO. 13: Was involved in planning the attack on al-Aqsa. Drove the vehicle that carried the Hebron University attackers. Was involved in planning the attack on the buses. Attached explosive devices to them.

DEFENDANT NO. 14: Was involved in the plot to attack al-Aqsa. Joined the attempt to booby-trap Dr Hamze Natshe's car in Bethlehem. Didn't succeed in carrying out the plan.

DEFENDANT NO. 15: Was involved in the plot to attack al-Aqsa. Helped prepare explosive devices for the attack and transported them to various hiding places. Aided in obtaining the explosives for the attack on the buses.

DEFENDANT NO. 16: Was involved in the plot to attack al-Aqsa. Bought silencers for Uzis for possible use in the attack.

DEFENDANT NO. 17: Was involved in the plot to attack al-Aqsa. Together with defendant no. 16, he bought silencers and participated in observations for the attack.

DEFENDANT NO. 18: Was involved in the plot to attack al-Aqsa and also made observations on Dr Natshe's house during the planning of the attempt to assassinate NGC leaders.

DEFENDANT NO. 19: Helped obtain explosives for the attack on the buses.

DEFENDANT NO. 20: Was involved in the plot to attack al-Aqsa. Made observations.

DEFENDANT NO. 21: Bought timers for the attacks on the buses. He knew what they were intended for.

DEFENDANT NO. 22: Accused of participating in the assassination attempt on NGC leaders. Together with defendant No. 25, he attached the device to Bassam Shaka'a's car.

DEFENDANT NO. 23: Accused of attaching the devices, together with two others, to the car of Karim Khalaf and the garage door of Ibrahim Tawil, crippling Khalaf and blinding sapper Suleiman Hirbawi.

DEFENDANT NO. 24: Attached explosive devices to the car of Karim Khalaf and to the garage door of Ibrahim Tawil.

DEFENDANT NO. 25: Accused of placing an explosive device in Bassam Shaka'a's car with defendant No. 22. (Translation: Hadashot, May 24, 1984)

Volunteers Aid Jordan Valley Farmers

Volunteers from 35 different West Bank and Gaza volunteer committees spent three days helping Jordan Valley farmers pick watermelons and prune banana trees May 17-20. The action was in support of farmers being harassed by export restrictions on the Jordan River bridges.

According to a statement by the Higher Committee of Voluntary Work Committees, 474 tons of watermelons were picked and 336 tons were loaded onto 28 trucks. Farmers estimated that volunteers saved them some IS1.5 million worth of work, as well as saving their crops.

The statement said that a number of volunteers were arrested and a number of youths from al-Ouja, in the Jordan Valley, were called in for questioning by the military authorities.

continued from page 1

25 Held

from the assault on Hebron University, last July. Four men are charged with involvement in the incident in which three people died and 38 were wounded.

The court ordered, after an appeal from the defence, that the names of the accused be kept secret. It has been revealed, however, that among those facing charges are senior settlement activists, army and 'civil administration' officers and one is an elmentary school headmaster in a settlement.

Observers were surprised that the accused were brought to court unhandcuffed and in an ordinary bus. People facing trial in an Israeli court are invariable transported in closed wagons, they noted, and accused murderers never allowed to wander freely without shackles.

A *Ma'ariv* reporter interyiewed some of the accused during family visiting time at the *Moscobiyya* Jerusalem detention centre. In the interview they drew parallels between their actions and those of pre-state terrorists including former premiers David Ben Gurion and Menachem Begin and current prime minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Some settlers said they set up the group because former Israeli defence minister Ezer Weitzman "In those days knowingly built the Palestinian state by means of a PLO emissary, the NGC."

continued from page 1

Eyes and Guts

Levinger's wife, Miriam, her hands trembling with emotion, cried into a loudspeaker microphone: "What is this hypocrisy? What is this conspiracy of silence? We always have to think about being moral! I've never heard anybody, any politician, Jew or Arab, say the Arabs must be moral."

The mother of Esther Ohana, killed by a rock thrown in the Hebron Hills in 1982, wept throughout her speech: "Why can only the Arabs kill, why can't we? What kind of country is this?"

Dr Yisrael Eldad, the prominent right-wing columnist, recalled how he had been held in a British cell "100 metres from here," 40 years ago. "We're seeing something outrageous," said Eldad, "Jewish soldiers put on trial for doing what they are supposed to do."

"I could arrest some of these people for incitement," quipped a senior police officer standing just beyond the rally, watching his subordinates direct the creeping traffic while drivers peeked at the crowd.

He pointed out the juxtaposition of two placards. One listed the names of those killed in Hebron. The other listed the names of Knesset members Yossi Sarid and Shulamit Aloni and attorney Felicia Langer. The poster said, "What do you have to say to the families with dead children? Moshe Levinger has the answer." The officer made no arrests.

Levinger is suspected of having advance knowledge, which he did not report, of the terror attack on the Islamic University of Hebron last summer in which three Arab students were murdered. His son-in-law is suspected of driving the get-away car in that attack. Levinger is also reportedly suspected of incitement.

Kach spokesman Yossi Dayan told the rally the suspected Jewish anti-Arab terror network's "only crime, was that they didn't ask me to join." He added, "Let's be frank, those boys did what they did for our security, and they are blessed."

The demonstrators were joined by *yeshiva* students from the controversial Birkat Avraham Yeshiva in the Moslem Quarter of the Old City.

The Kiryat Arba and Hebron demonstrators were mostly people who either support the actions of the suspected underground or belive, as was said by Eldad, that "There cannot be the same law and judgement for those who hate Israel and those who love it." They broke into applause over and over again as the speakers condemned the arrest of the alleged underground and praised its intentions.

When Miriam Levinger condemned Labour Party chairman Shimon Peres, "under whom, as defence minister, the settlements were established," she earned shouts of approval.

And when Esther Ohana's mother, her thick Moroccan accent in sharp contrast to the American and Ashkenazi accents heard throughout the crowd, cried out "Death to the Arabs," the crowd vigourously approved.

A spokesman for Rabbi Moshe Tendler, a Talmud professor at Yeshiva University, and a medical researcher, earned applause when reading a telegramme from the rabbi. He quoted from the Talmud, "He who rises up to slay you, rise up earlier to slay him." (Reprint from Jerusalem Post, May 23, 1984)

May 25,26,27

JERUSALEM — *1000 Nights of a Stone-Thrower*, at the Nuzha/El-Hakawati Theatre, Jerusalem, 7:00 pm. Tel: 288189 for reservations. (Arabic, translation available)

May 25

BAT YAM — *The Refusal*, a play by Raphi Tailor and Dina Limon about draft resistance. A discussion in Hebrew with actors Ran Cohen and Udi Ben Sadyah, a representative of *Yesh Gvul*, will follow. *Tzavta* Theatre, 9:30 pm. (Hebrew)

May 27

JAFFA — Democratic Women's Movement members will meet to prepare for International Children's Day, 9 Jean Rasin Street, 7:00 pm. (Hebrew, Arabic)

May 28, 29, 30

JERUSALEM — *Dust*, the premier of a play by *Farafir* Theate Troupe, at the Nuzha/El-Hakawati Theatre Centre, 7:00 pm. (Arabic)

May 28

HAIFA — Discussion about the book *War in Lebanon or War Astray*, with authors Ehud Ya'ari and Ze'ev Schiff and war supporter Ehud Olmert. *Tzavta* Theatre, 9:00 pm. (Hebrew)

May 30

TEL AVIV — *The Honey Bond*, a television film by Ye'ud Levanon about the Jewish underground. It was made in 1976 but never shown. *Tzavta* Theatre, 10:30 pm. (Hebrew)

Lost Passport

A Brazilian passport belonging to Inam Mallek Hamad from Deir Dibwan has been lost.

Anyone who discovers the passport please turn it over to the nearest police station or *Al Fajr*'s Ramallah office. Tel: (02) 953001.

WEEKLY REVIEW

May 16, 1984

JD5000 ROBBERY

NABLUS — Imad Abdallah Bishawi, 17, from Balata refugee camp, near Nablus, was shot and wounded by an attacker who stole JD5000 from him.

DHEISHEH BOY RELEASED

DHEISHEH — Local boy, Nasser Mustafa Jibril, 13, was released after serving a three-and-a-half-month sentence on stone-throwing charges.

HEBRON ENGINEER FREED

HEBRON — Israeli authorities released Hassan Mahmoud Shehadeh Kiswani, director of agricultural land for the West Bank *Waqf* committee. He was held for one month on political charges.

UNDER THE LIGHTS

BETHLEHEM — Israeli authorities erected floodlights to illuminate Dheisheh refugee camp, near Bethlehem. The floodlights are attached to electricity pylons on the main Jerusalem-Hebron road.

ranging from IS35-50,000 on charges of throwing stones at a military vehicle.

END OF DEMOLITIONS?

According to *HaAretz*, the Israeli authorities are considering ending the policy of blowing up or sealing homes of Palestinian guerrillas as collective punishment. The change is being considered after the recent discovery of an Israeli underground Jewish movement

May 17, 1984

DEMOLITIONS POSTPONED

JERUSALEM — The Jerusalem Central Court postponed the demolition of three homes in Jerusalem's Sharafat quarter until July 8.

HUSSEIN: LABOUR MORE MODERATE

PARIS — Jordanian monarch King Hussein said that a victory for the Israeli Labour Party in the coming Israeli elections will be a positive indication of a deep-rooted change in the public opinion of the Israeli public.

NO EXAM FOR PRISONERS

The Israeli authorities barred three Gaza prisoners from applying for the *tawjihi* (secondary school matriculation) exams but accepted Red Cross mediation efforts and allowed 54 others to take the exam.

YOUTH CENTRE CLOSED

NABLUS — Fara'a refugee camp residents complained against the UNRWA decision to close the youth centre in the camp.

FRENCH UNIONISTS VISIT

JERUSALEM — A delegation of French unionists (CGT) ended a five-day visit to the occupied territories. The delegation met with Adel Ghanem, the general-secretary of the West Bank Federation of Unions.

May 18, 1984

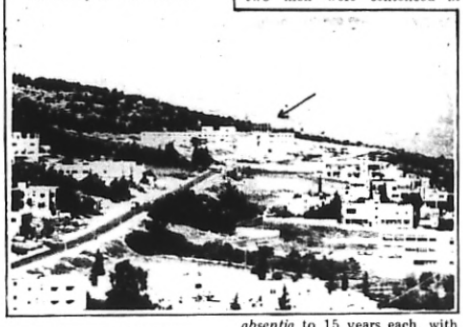
ORDER NISI AGAINST LAND GRABBING

The Israeli High Court issued an order *nisi* preventing authorities from confiscating 77 dunums in Beit Ijza and from demolishing an eight-room house belonging to Sabri Gharib. The court will also hear Gharib's complaint that he was beaten by settlers from Hadash settlement.

ORDER NISI AGAINST DEPORTATION

Israeli High Court issued an order *nisi* ordering the Israeli ministers of defence and interior to explain the reasons for the deportation of prisoner Ali Shami. Ali Shami will finish serving 11 years imprisonment this week.

The new prison in Nablus.



FLAG RAISING

Unidentified people hoisted the Palestinian flag on an electricity pylon on a road leading to Naftim settlement.

ANSAR PRISONER KILLED

An Israeli army spokesperson said guards killed a prisoner and captured four others who were trying to escape from Ansar prison in south Lebanon. The military spokesperson said that the army is searching the area for other escapees.

JORDAN STOPS IMPORTING APPLES

JENIN — The Jordanian authorities stopped imports of West Bank apples across the Jordan River bridges. Jordan's imports of apples so far this year reached JD7 million.

May 19, 1984

AGRICULTURE SYMPOSIUM AT NAJAH

A scientific symposium on agriculture and botany in the West Bank and Gaza Strip opened at Najah University. Professors from Bir Zeit, Gaza and Essex University in Britain participated.

TAX ON TOMATOES

TULKARM — The Israeli authorities reimposed tax on tomato products exported to Jordan.

UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS IN HEBRON

HEBRON — A number of suspicious objects were discovered in various parts of the city. Israeli bomb experts found no bombs but the reports caused panic among residents.

ISRAELI OFFICER SHOT

An Israeli officer was shot in the leg in West Jerusalem. No one was arrested.

May 20, 1984

JORDAN SENTENCES COLLABORATORS

AMMAN — The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported that Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat had endorsed a military court decision convicting two West Bank residents of contacting and collaborating with Israel. The two men were sentenced *in absentia* to 15 years each, with hard labour. No names were mentioned.

NEW PRISON IN NABLUS

The Israeli military authorities opened a new prison at the western entrance to Nablus. The building was a Jordanian military hospital before 1967. It will accommodate 500 prisoners.

BEITILLU RESIDENTS GO TO HIGH COURT

RAMALLAH — Beitillu residents decided to file a complaint to the Israeli High Court in order to stop Israeli work on their land. The land, which was dug up by Israeli bulldozers, is not confiscated.

13,608 STUDENTS FOR TAWJIHI

NABLUS — The number of students registering for the *tawjihi* (secondary school matriculation certificate) exam this year was 13,608, including 110 students in six prisons. *Tawjihi* exams are scheduled for June 13, and they end on June 21.

LANGER HAS INFORMATION ON MURDERS

Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer announced in a press conference held in Washington DC that she has information proving that two Palestinian commandos were killed after they were arrested. Langer said that she plans to go to the Israeli High Court on behalf of the Palestinians who were killed after the hijacking of the Israeli bus near Gaza.

ARMED ROBBERY IN NABLUS

NABLUS — Four armed men, one of whom was dressed in military uniform, broke into Mohammed Tawfiq Battah's house, located between the villages of Hijjeh and al-Funduq, and stole 26 gold coins and JD100 in cash. The raiders entered the house on the pretext of a

The annual sports festival at Bishara School, in Ramallah, attended by Father Lutfi Lahham, second from left, and other friends of the school.

PRISON FOR STONE-THROWER

JENIN — The Israeli military court here sentenced Ali Ahmad Nimr, 18, to six-months jail on charges of stone-throwing and inciting students at Iz al-Din School to demonstrate on March 13, 1983.

Meanwhile, a military court in Nablus sentenced seven youths to 70 days in prison and fines

BOMB DETONATED

WEST BANK — The Israeli authorities detonated a bomb discovered in the centre of the Ramallah district village of Ras Karkar.

Another bomb was discovered at a crossroads near the Tulkarm district village of Beit Lid. An Israeli Radio report said the bomb was detonated without causing injury.

SOLIDARITY ILLEGAL

Ibrahim Abu Sitteh, a Gaza lawyer, has been charged with publishing an advertisement backing PLO chairperson Yasir Arafat in *Al Fajr*. He was also charged with holding a meeting to discuss means of supporting Arafat against Fatah dissidents.

security search. It was the third such robbery in the Nablus area in the past week.

TUNNEL CONNECTS THE TWO RAFAHS

TEL AVIV — Israeli authorities discovered a three-metre deep tunnel under the Israeli-Egyptian borders in Rafah. The tunnel extends about 20 metres from Palestinian Rafah near a Rafah house.

Rafah-Falastin villagers inspecting the tunnel leading to Rafah-Egypt.

Taxmen also confiscated goods from Nasser Omran Rasheq and Mousa Hassan Qelubu when they refused to pay millions of shekels in taxes.

SHEPHERD SHOT

Wajih Nasir Milh, 47, a shepherd from Ain Kinia, was wounded by four unidentified masked men. They attacked Milh and demanded money. When he refused, they shot him. He was hospitalised in Ramallah.

An enthusiastic crowd attended the conclusion of the Bir Zeit University Palestine Culture Week, featuring a Palestinian wedding.

May 21, 1984

STRIKE AT BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem University students started an open strike protesting the academic regulations imposed by the university administration.

TEACHER TRAINING CENTRE CLOSED

UNRWA officials closed the Tireh Women Teachers' Training Centre for the third time after that students refused to fill out forms for the Jordan and 'civil administration' backed comprehenisve exam.

TWO NEW SETTLEMENTS

Israeli authorities will begin construction of two settlements: Omrim, south of Hebron, and Tal-Hayem, in west of Nablus. The Israeli defence minister will attend the first ground breaking ceremony and Premier Yitzhak Shamir the second. The Gush Emunim movement is sponsoring the settlement.

GRADUATES UNEMPLOYEMNET

Ten thousand graduates from universities and local institutes are unemployed according to a story in *Al Quds* based on what they call "confidential source." Names of unemployed graduates have been registered in Jordan which is offering them unemployment benefits. Engineers will get JD30 and BA-holder JD20. The payments will be retroactive to the date of graduation, *Al Quds* said.

May 22, 1984

TAXMEN CONFISCATE GOODS FROM JERUSALEM MERCHANTS

Israeli taxmen broke into several shops in Jerusalem and asked owners to pay large sums of money in alleged back taxes.

THIEVES TAKE THOBES

Unidentified people broke into a house in Deir Dibwan and stole 16 traditional hand-embroidered dresses.

6 SHOPS THREATENED

The Jerusalem development company is planning to force the closure of six small shops in Damascus Gate on the pretext of expanding the entrance.

SETTLERS WORK ON SIEZED LAND

TULKARM — Israeli bulldozers dug up Arab-owned land in the village of Isbet Noufal, west of the village of Jayus, in the Tulkarm district. The bulldozers uprooted trees and other plants from the farmland owned by Mohammed Saleh Noufal. Noufal, the landowner, was assaulted several months ago by unidentified men, who tried to force him to his land.

BIO-AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE AT NAJAH

The first bio-agricultural conference ended at Najah University after three days of discussions. Twenty-two research papers were discussed. Participants in the conference came from Bir Zeit University, Najah University, Islamic University of Gaza and the University of Essex, England.

TULKARM MAN FINED

TULKARM — The Tulkarm military court gave Fathallah Abdullah Hamshari a four-month suspended term effective for three years and fined him IS25,000 for demonstrating during the mass poisoning scare last year.

TYRES SLASHED

JERUSALEM — Unidentified people slashed the tyres of 15 cars parked at the entrance to the New Gate in Jerusalem, leading to the Christian Quarter. Arab residents denounced the saboteurs.

May 23, 1984

CULTURE WEEK IN HEBRON UNIVERSITY

Palestinian Cultural Week at Hebron University, sponsored by the student council, opened today.

The opening of the Hebron University Palestine Culture Week, May 23.

In this interview for *Al Hamishmar* by Moti Bassuq, settlement strategist Yuval Ne'eman, minister of science and development and Tehiya Party leader, argues that Israeli rule over south Lebanon should imitate its occupation of Gaza and that the hands of the Israeli army should be "untied."

Israeli Designs on South Lebanon

Professor of physics Yuval Ne'eman has been a colonel in the Israeli army, president of Tel Aviv University, senior advisor to Defence Minister Shimon Peres and chief scientist of the security services. Today, Yuval Ne'eman is the leader of Tehiya *and minister for science and development in the Israeli government. On days on which he is in the country (in 1983 Ne'eman was the ministerial champion of travelling abroad — 70 days outside in 10 trips), Ne'eman concentrates on foreign affairs and security and mainly on promoting settlement in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.*

Between a meeting with heads of high educational institutions and a discussion with Tehiya *leaders, we asked minister Ne'eman why he and his movement sanctify the Awali river line.*

"We support the continuation of the Israeli army's stay on the Awali, for years, because of military reasons. I recently reviewed data on south Lebanon. If you want to maintain a 40-kilometre zone, this is the line. The word 'sanctify' is yours. In my opinion it is a very limited guarantee.

"From a merely technical point of view, it is convenient to sit on the river; it is a serious obstacle. The fact is that the Awali is a canyon, that is easy to close. There are few passageways out of it. At one time I strongly pressed in government for the closure of the area under our domination by a brigade with one or two controlled passages. It was not accepted. The government always fears the world saying we are controlling Lebanese territory. This claim isn't relevant because who is not dominating territories in Lebanon? We made a war in order to protect peace in the Galilee. In staying on the Awali and closing the area we shall fulfill that aim.

"I have a clear picture of how Israel should rule in south Lebanon. I repeated my proposal four or five times in the cabinet. We should rule in a way very similar to that of the Gaza region in 1970. The problems in south Lebanon and the Gaza region are very similar — refugee camps, a problematic beach strip, citrus groves. We know today that in 1968-69 the Strip was almost completely dominated by the PLO. The guerrillas ruled by force in the refugee camps. Killing and murder was frequent, just like in south Lebanon before we entered.

"When we decided to deal with the Gaza region to 'clean' the area in 1970, things were done systematically. Areas were fenced, citrus groves situated on crossroads were uprooted. We need

Israeli soldiers at Awali River checkpoint: creating a new Gaza Strip.

to control the population in south Lebanon. They should be registered so we know who enters the region and who leaves it. There are techniques for registering people. It is possible to arrange with the Lebanese authorities that they issue ID cards using our techniques so they will be unforgeable. If the Gaza system is adopted, with the additions necessary because of certain differences in the situation, it would be possible to create near tranquility in south Lebanon. A Jew is murdered once in a year in the market in Gaza too. And in south Lebanon we have an advantage over Gaza in 1970. In Gaza there was no one sympathetic to us. In Lebanon many local elements will collaborate with us if they know we will remain in the area. These elements are interested in a tranquil life. I'm speaking first of all about the Christians. However, there are also Shi'ites who collaborated with us and are prepared to collaborate in the future, provided that they know that we are staying. If they think we are leaving, no one will wish to collaborate with us.

"Your claim is right. More than 80 percent of the assaults on our soldiers today are by Lebanese. I'm talking about pro-Syrian and pro-PLO people. However, they try to attack us because they think we are already leaving. The sabotage equipment and concealed bombs activated against us are imported from Beirut and Ba'albek. Examinations proved this. It is not difficult even today for someone to take a taxi from Beirut, to hide explosives in it and to bring them to south Lebanon. Our checks are very random. If we adopt the same methods at Lebanese crossing points that we do on the Jordan bridges, it will be possible to achieve maximum security. Fighting terror is a vocation. The best professional systems should be used and the hands of the army should not be tied."

You said recently that negotiations with Jordan, proposed by Prime Minister Shamir for instance, would be the biggest disaster for Israel since the establishment of the state. Why?

"Indeed, this is my and *Tehiya's* stand. We are not bound by coalition discipline on the subject of the Camp David accords. We are free to act according to our best convictions and considerations. It is clear to us that if (King) Hussein reported today to the Knesset, there would be strong pressure from the so-called peace elements in Israel, Peace Now and others, to approach him. Many people in the Knesset would be embarrassed, like when Sadat came. Seeing an Arab king willing to negotiate, very many MKs would lose their sense of proportion.

"Peace is good for Jews as it is for Arabs. *Tehiya* wants peace too. The question is, in return for what? Today the situation with Jordan, without Hussein coming to Jerusalem, is better than the situation with Egypt, with whom we have a peace accord. The Jordanian border is the calmest of all of Israel's border. Actually there is more cooperation with Jordan than with Egypt. The difference between the peace with Egypt, for which we conceded Sinai, two towns and 14 more settlements, and the peace with Jordan is that it is one-sided. One can travel to Luxor and one can't to the Red Rock (Petra).

"I'm afraid, that if Hussein shows up in the Knesset, the Jewish peace-seeking heart will melt and many people will be prepared to give up territory and abandon our security. Peace with Egypt cost us a tremendous price. We forced on ourselves a tremendous economic dependence. Half of the economic debt of Israel in the past four years is a result of that peace. Annually we produced US$2-2.5 billion worth of oil in Sinai. Multiply this by four and you have a loss of US$8-10 billion. In the past four years our national debt increased by US$21 billion. And don't forget that the Americans didn't fulfill their promises and we were compelled to build the third airfield in the Negev from our own pocket, along with the additional expenses for establishment and infrastructure."

Is Ariel Sharon's claim true that the government stopped building new settlements under American pressure?

"Sharon's words in this respect are groundless. Since I took the post of deputy chairperson of the government-World Zionist Organisation settlement committee on August 8, 1982 decisions were taken to erect 48 new settlements in all parts of *Eretz Israel*. This year, despite cuts in the budget, 16 settlements will be erected in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Twelve of these will be established by the settlement division of the WZO and four by the ministry of housing and construction. In addition between five and 10 settlements will be erected in the West Bank by private entrepreneurs." (Translation: Al Hamishmar, March 20, 1984).

Israel's role in Central America — selling arms and maintaining diplomatic contacts with fascist regimes — is uncomfortable for some Israeli liberals as Yoav Karney explains in *Yediot Aharanot*.

How Much Does an Embassy in Jerusalem Cost?

Last Friday Salvadoran Colonel, Armando Cera, stood in front of a house in the Atamon quarter and raised the flag of his country: the Central American Republic of El Salvador returned its Embassy to Jerusalem.

Those who obstinately wish to take pleasure in such news, let them be pleased. The absurd show called "Israel and its Friends" will surely provide us with further summits of ridicule and haplessness.

It is not at all impossible that in a few months time El Salvador will have no Embassy in Israel, because it is possible that it's present rulers will have to escape to the luxurious villas they have prepared for themselves. However, why do I bother the Israeli foreign office with such considrations. The question, "how much does an Embassy in Jerusalem cost" has no place in the emtpy ritual of an office that stopped 30 years ago managing the foreign policy of Israel. It is posed in the context of a much more serious matter.

In El Salvador a horrible and terrible civil war rages. In four-and-a-half years 50,000 people were slain. Left-wing guerilla fighters, with Cuban and Nicaraguan support, are trying to destroy a regime that gave El Salvador a brutal and corrupt dictatorship for more than 50 years now. You may sympathise with Cuba, you may hate it — one thing cannot be doubted: the civil war in El Salvador is in evitable result of a tremendous historical wrong.

There are barely five states in the world which support the Salvadoran regime. First is Ronald Reagan's United States ([Democratic presidential contenders Walter] Mondale [Gary] Hart and [Jesse] Jackson don't support it). In the honorable company one may find Guatemala, a great concentration camp disguised for some reason as a state. In this company too, one finds Israel.

The fact that Israel is definitely identified with some of the worst regimes on earth is a wrong which should be mourned for generations. But let's leave the Israeli foreign office's philosophy for now. The immediate question is, why do we need, for heavens sake, an Embassy in the capital of El Salvador? Such an Embassy was the Israeli contribution to the Jerusalem Embassy deal.

Is there any justification in endangering the life of our new ambassador, Aryeh Amir, former deputy of the foreign office's Latin America department? Can Amir function in a state that is blazing? Is it imperative that another Israeli diplomat be exposed to assassination and kidnapping attempts?

In my opinion, the answer is: Amir is nothing more than an ornament in a shop window. The defence ministry which has managed Israeli policy to the Third World since the early 1950s, also plans to run the Embassy in El Salvador. According to reports in the international press, Israel intends to send more military advisers and also sell arms [there] (MK Yigal Horowitz once said to [Labour dove] Yossi Sarid: "your speeches, Yossi, cannot be sold abroad; arms can").

Since El Salvador is not able to pay for even one bullet the question of who will pay arises. Maybe the US is going to pay? Maybe, Israel, as a faithful ally intends to subsidise the survival-attempt of the Salvadoran colonels?

In any case, Israel is again busying itself to serve US interests. Israel is again digging a diplomatic cave for itself in Central America. Israel is painting again a sign of shame on its forehead. Israel is driving away once more its natural friends: humanists, liberals, social reconstructers, defenders of human rights.

Yesterday I had a strange dream: in my dream, one of the major parties dedicated 60 seconds of its election propaganda time to the issue of Israel's relations with tyrannical Third World regimes. I immediately remembered how much 60 seconds of television time costs and wokeup laughing hysterically. (Translation: Ydiot Aharonot, April 18, 1984)